City&Guilds

Driving the zero emissions agenda

by driving electric-powered vehicles

Is the UK's EV charger point installation workforce prepared for the demands of upgrading an entire country's infrastructure by 2030?

Forging our way toward the UK government's Net Zero 2050 goal, electric vehicles will become the mandate in new car sales as of 2035. After a sluggish start, electric vehicle sales are finally on the rise as more people buy into the zero carbon emission agenda.

We decided to ask the question, "what's the word out on the street?" Through a survey of UK-based electricians, ranging from sole proprietors to large-scale public sector organisations, we uncovered challenges and opportunities for installing EV charge points.

Industry Snapshot

75%

of businesses are looking into installing EV charge points in the future. 52% of these are likely to start within the next 6 months.

80%

of respondents expect the future demand for EV charge points installations to increase. A further 65% claim that since starting EV charger installations, their own businesses have grown significantly.

81%

15% of those surveyed manage teams of electricians, of which 81% of the teams currently install EV chargers.

69%

of respondents actively install EV charge points within their role.

70%

claim that they, or their teams, have been installing EV chargers for less than 2 years. A further 10% have only been in the EV chargers industry for 3-5 years.

Skills Snapshot

34%

(more than a third) of respondents learned how to install EV chargers while on the job, without any formal training.

88%

of qualified EV charger installers have low confidence in the ability of non-qualified electrical installers to install large-scale, superfast EV charge points safely.

Only 20% of respondents are actually involved in large-scale EV charge point installations, such as petrol station conversions.

45%

of employers say that they only recruit electricians who are already qualified or competent to install EV chargers. Over a 1/3 of those employers find it difficult to recruit those competent electricians with the right skills needed for installations.

Addressing The Skills Gap

Our survey findings show that we're chasing the (electrical) storm, but will need to ramp up efforts to meet the 2030 criteria.

2030

- EV charge point installations are not going to slow down. We're going to need more qualified installation professionals.
- The most significant concern lies in large-scale, superfast installations, where the current skills gap is the greatest.
- By and large, electricians are willing and enthusiastic about upskilling through formal training.
- Ensuring electricians have undergone good quality training through a recognised qualification that meets the industry safety standard is crucial to safe installations.

Skills Development Opportunities

56%

of respondents felt that they would have benefited from formal EV charge point installation training, while 58% believe that the industry desperately needs an updated qualfication specifically for the installation of EV charge points.

65%

say that EV charger technology is changing rapidly, largely due to vehicle manufacturing innovations.

70%

Just over 70% of respondents plan to enrol in an EV charger installation qualification in the near future.

Part of the solution

City & Guilds' NEW Electric Vehicle Charging Design and Installation Qualifications

To help with the standardisation of industry standards, City & Guilds have worked with employers and key industry bodies to co-design a new portfolio of EV Charging design and installation qualifications. The portfolio includes qualifications for domestic and small-scale commercial electric vehicle charger installations (already live) and commercial/large-scale design and installations (launching in September).

These qualifications are aimed at practicing electricians who wish to upskill. Qualifications will lead to a recognised status for installers on their ECS Gold Card of being able to carry out EV charger installation services.

Find a City & Guilds Approved Centre that offers our new EV Charging installation qualification.

Get qualified