

## PowerNet providing how-to guide for charging up Electric Vehicles



*Natalie Skeggs, Smart Energy Home tenant.*

Charging up your new electric vehicle (EV) couldn't be easier – in fact, you can do it while you sleep.

The type of vehicles we drive are likely to transition to battery electric powered EVs at a pace likely to surprise most people – so PowerNet is producing a range of guides to assist people making the switch to EVs.

For many New Zealanders, their next vehicle may well be electric. This means rather than filling cars with petrol or diesel, your future car will be plugged in and charged just like your other mobile devices.

The difference is that to charge an EV in a convenient timeframe a specialised charging unit is required, one with enough grunt.

AC charging roughly translates to slow charging, while DC is fast-charging. Public chargers are often DC fast chargers for a quick charge “on the go”.

The good news is that most people don't need to charge up their EVs in 20 minutes – and can just plug them in at home to charge overnight through an easily installed charging unit.

“Charging from home is the new default charging method,” PowerNet electrical engineer Dyson Gentle says.

Most peoples' day-to-day driving will be covered by charging their EVs overnight at home, once or twice a week, he says.

Fast-charging stations are only really for when people get caught short when travelling longer distances away from their usual charger at their home or business.

“A couple of PowerNet staff members with EVs drive about 80km round-trips to work each day and charge their cars at home or at work each day.”

There are several different connector standards that are used with electric vehicles – but it's virtually impossible to use the wrong one on your car and people will quickly get used to what works with their car.

Dyson says an information sheet on charging EVs will be available at [www.powernet.co.nz](http://www.powernet.co.nz) that will demystify the process and options around keeping your EV charged up.