

The purpose of this memo is to provide a comprehensive comparison of the cost of installing EV-Capable, EV-Ready, and EV-Installed charging infrastructure both during construction (new construction) and during retrofit. The Solar Foundation utilized previous research on this topic and real-world cost data of the technologies necessary to install various levels of EV charging infrastructure. In all cases there is over a 55% cost savings to install EV charging infrastructure during construction compared to retrofit.

EV-Capable

EV-Capable requires that new construction is equipped with conduit (raceway) and adequate panel capacity to accommodate future installation of a dedicated branch circuit and charging station. The figure below presents the schematic of an EV-Capable charging space.¹



The California Electric Transportation Coalition recently released a new report that outlines the cost of each technology used for EV-capable spaces, including any necessary installation costs such as trenching, labor costs, and permitting.² These costs were based on requirements for the future installation of Level 2 charging stations and were determined under three building scenarios: (1) small retail/commercial building; (2) medium office/school; (3) large office/retail/hospital. Under each scenario, the costs were estimated for 10% of parking spots, the resulting number of EV-Capable parking spots are specified in Table 1. The cost is broken down into each category for each scenario in Table 1. For small retail/commercial it is almost 7 times more expensive to install EV-capable infrastructure as a retrofit, for medium office/school it is 5 times more expensive, and for large office it is 4 times more expensive.

Table 1: Cost of EV-Capable Installation for three building scenarios for retrofit and new construction.

¹ https://www.carlsbadca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=37502

² https://caletc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CALGreen-2019-Supplement-Cost-Analysis-Final-1.pdf



	4 EV-Capable spaces in Small Retail/Commercial		15 EV-Capable spaces in Medium Office/School		40 EV-Capable spaces in Large Office/Retail/Hospita l	
		New		New		New
Cost Category	Retrofit	Constructio	Retrofit	Constructio	Retrofit	Constructio
		n		n		n
Electrical Panel	\$1,319	\$1,100	\$8,477	\$6 <i>,</i> 486	\$25,879	\$18,467
Raceway	\$1,733	\$886	\$7,269	\$4,107	\$32,429	\$5,155
Trenching	\$816	\$53	\$1,657	\$413	\$0	\$0
Demolition of Equipment	\$7,136	\$0	\$22,966	\$0	\$21,711	\$0
Asphalt & Concrete	\$4,452	\$0	\$9 <i>,</i> 223	\$0	\$6,392	\$0
Balance of Circuit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Permitting, Inspection,	\$3,726	\$1,179	\$8,792	\$1,560	\$18,602	\$3,193
Fees						
Construction Management	\$2,520	\$18	\$2,781	\$90	\$3,071	\$196
Total Cost for EV Capable	\$21,70	\$3,236	\$61,165	\$12,656	\$108,08	\$27,011
	2				4	

EV-Ready

EV-Ready requires the installation of conduit (raceway), electrical panel capacity, dedicated branch circuit, and a receptacle (outlet) to support future installation of charging stations. Therefore, the difference between EV-Capable and EV-Ready is the addition of the wiring and receptacle. Below is a schematic of EV-Ready charging stations.³



To determine the cost of EV-Ready installation, The Solar Foundation applied the costs from the EV-Capable estimates and included the additional costs for the branch circuits and electrical

³ https://www.carlsbadca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=37502



outlet (receptacle). The receptacle costs are based on the California Electric Transportation Coalition report.⁴ The cost of the branch circuit is an estimated \$3.60/ft and each scenario used the following assumptions for the length of the branch circuit (these assumptions and wiring cost data are based on a report prepared for the City of Carlsbad⁵):

- For small retail/commercial assume 80 ft. + 20 ft. for branching off to each space
- For medium office assume 100 ft. + 20 ft. for branching off to each space
- For large office assume 200 ft. + 20 ft. for branching off to each space

The cost is broken down for each category in Table 2. The total cost for EV-Ready infrastructure includes the cost for EV-Capable infrastructure + the additional costs for the outlet and branch circuit.

Table 2: Cost of EV-Ready Installation for three building scenarios for retrofit and a	new
construction.	

	4 EV-Capable spaces in Small Retail/Commercial		15 EV-Capable spaces in Medium Office/School		40 EV-Capable spaces in Large Office/Retail/Hospital	
Cost Category	Retrofit	New Constructio n	Retrofit	New Constructio n	Retrofit	New Construction
Total Cost for EV Capable	\$21,702	\$3,236	\$61,16 5	\$12,656	\$108,08 4	\$27,011
Branch Circuit	\$576	\$576	\$1,440	\$1,440	\$3,312	\$3,312
Receptacle	\$460	\$384	\$1,151	\$959	\$3,069	\$2,558
Total Cost for EV Ready	\$22,738	\$4,196	\$63,75 6	\$15,055	\$114,46 5	\$32,881

EV-Installed

EV-installed charging stations include the infrastructure required for EV-Ready spaces plus the physical charging station. Therefore, the cost includes the additional cost for each charging station infrastructure. Below is a schematic of EV-installed charging stations.

⁴ <u>https://caletc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CALGreen-2019-Supplement-Cost-Analysis-Final-1.pdf</u>

⁵ https://www.carlsbadca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=37502





The cost for a charging station is not different for retrofit compared to new construction. The cost is determined to be an average \$600 per charging station, assuming Level 2 chargers are installed.⁶ The cost for each scenario are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Cost of EV-Installed Installation for three building scenarios for retrofit and new construction.

	4 EV-Capable spaces in Small Retail/Commercial		15 EV-Capable spaces in Medium Office/School		40 EV-Capable spaces in Large Office/Retail/Hospita l	
Cost Category	Retrofit	New Constructio n	Retrofit	New Constructio n	Retrofit	New Constructio n
Total Cost for EV Ready	\$22,738	\$4,196	\$63,756	\$15,055	\$114,465	\$32,881
EV Charging Station	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
Total Cost for EV-Installed	\$25,138	\$6,596	\$72,756	\$24,055	\$138,465	\$56,881

<u>Summary</u>

To draw more immediate and concise conclusions, the cost data determined above is further analyzed to determine the cost per charging station. Table 4 presents the cost per charging station for each EV charging infrastructure under each scenario for retrofit and new construction.

⁶ https://www.homeadvisor.com/cost/garages/install-an-electric-vehicle-charging-station/



Table 4: Cost per charging station for EV-Capable, EV-Ready, and EV-Installed for each scenario under retrofit and new construction.

	Small Retail/Commercial		Mo Offic	edium e/School	Large Office/Retail/Hospita l		
	Retrofit	New Constructio n	Retrofit	New Construction	Retrofit	New Constructio n	
EV-Capable	\$5,426	\$809	\$4,078	\$844	\$2,702	\$675	
EV-Ready	\$5,685	\$1,049	\$4,250	\$1,004	\$2,862	\$822	
EV-Installed	\$6,285	\$1,649	\$4,850	\$1,604	\$3,462	\$1,422	

Under each scenario, there is more than 58% cost savings to install EV charging infrastructure during new construction compared to retrofit. For EV-Capable infrastructure, the cost savings ranges between 73% and 85%, based on each scenario. EV-Ready infrastructure cost savings ranges between 67% and 79% and for EV-installed infrastructure, the cost savings ranges between 59% and 75%.