

Dear Oliver Heald MP,

I am writing to let you know that Baldock Extra in your constituency, will be one of the first Tesco stores to have rapid Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points installed. This means that most customers will be able to get a full charge in around one hour.

In 2017, we announced that we would be installing 2,400 EV charge points in our large stores across the UK, increasing the number of publicly available UK charge points by 14%. Since then, despite Covid set-backs, we have installed charge points in 286 of our stores and aim to complete 400 stores in the new year.

During the first wave of installation, the focus was mainly on 7kW (fast) chargers, which are free of charge for customers. But now as we progress through the installation, we are focusing on delivering a number of 50kW (rapid) charge points, available to customers at a small cost, in line with market rates. This phase of installation has begun, and the first 60 stores to have rapid, as well as fast chargers, is due to be completed in May 2021. To put this into context, the 7kW charge points provide a typical driver with a day's worth of charge in 45-50 minutes, and a 50kW rapid charger will provide a full charge for most vehicles in about 1 hour. This does, of course, depend on the model and make of the car and size of the battery. By installing rapid chargers, we hope our customers will have more confidence in the availability of charging points across the UK, and ultimately encourage the uptake of electric vehicles.

Our EV roll out programme forms part of our broader commitment to support UK decarbonisation efforts. We were the first UK retailer to align our carbon reduction targets with the Paris Climate commitments and we have achieved a 36% reduction in carbon emissions, since 2015/16. Transport is a significant contributor to UK carbon emissions and is the area of our operations that we continue to make significant changes in to support achieving our targets. In addition to the roll out of EV charge points, we are also signatories to the Clean Van Commitment (a pledge to move to zero emissions vans in cities by 2028) and currently have 30 fully-electrical delivery vans. We are also trialling a range of lower carbon alternatives within our distribution fleet, including increasing our rail capacity through investment into our rail service.

I will keep you updated about our EV charge point roll out in your constituency and please let me know if you would like any further information.

Best wishes,

Rebecca

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