

AGL Energy: Charge your Tesla or BMWi3 for \$1 a day from November



Electric vehicle owners like Pia Peterson will be able to charge the Tesla Model S vehicles in her Evoke Tesla limo service for \$1 a day from 1 November if she is an SAGL Energy customer. *James Brickwood*



AGL Energy will offer customers with electric cars such as Tesla's Model S unlimited charging for \$1 a day under a new plan to launch on November 1.

The \$365-a-year, "all-you-can-eat" offer will apply to electric vehicles on the market, from the high end Tesla's Model S and BMW i3 to the more affordable Nissan Leaf.

Unlimited electric vehicle charging is one of a suite of services the company plans to roll out in a bid [to boost electricity demand and remain relevant to customers](#) enticed by the allure of installing rooftop solar and batteries to go off the grid.

Chief executive Andy Vesey told the Australia Energy Week conference the electricity supplied to electric vehicles under the offer would be fully "carbon offset" - meaning the company will plant trees or invest in other carbon offsets in Australia to match the carbon dioxide emissions.



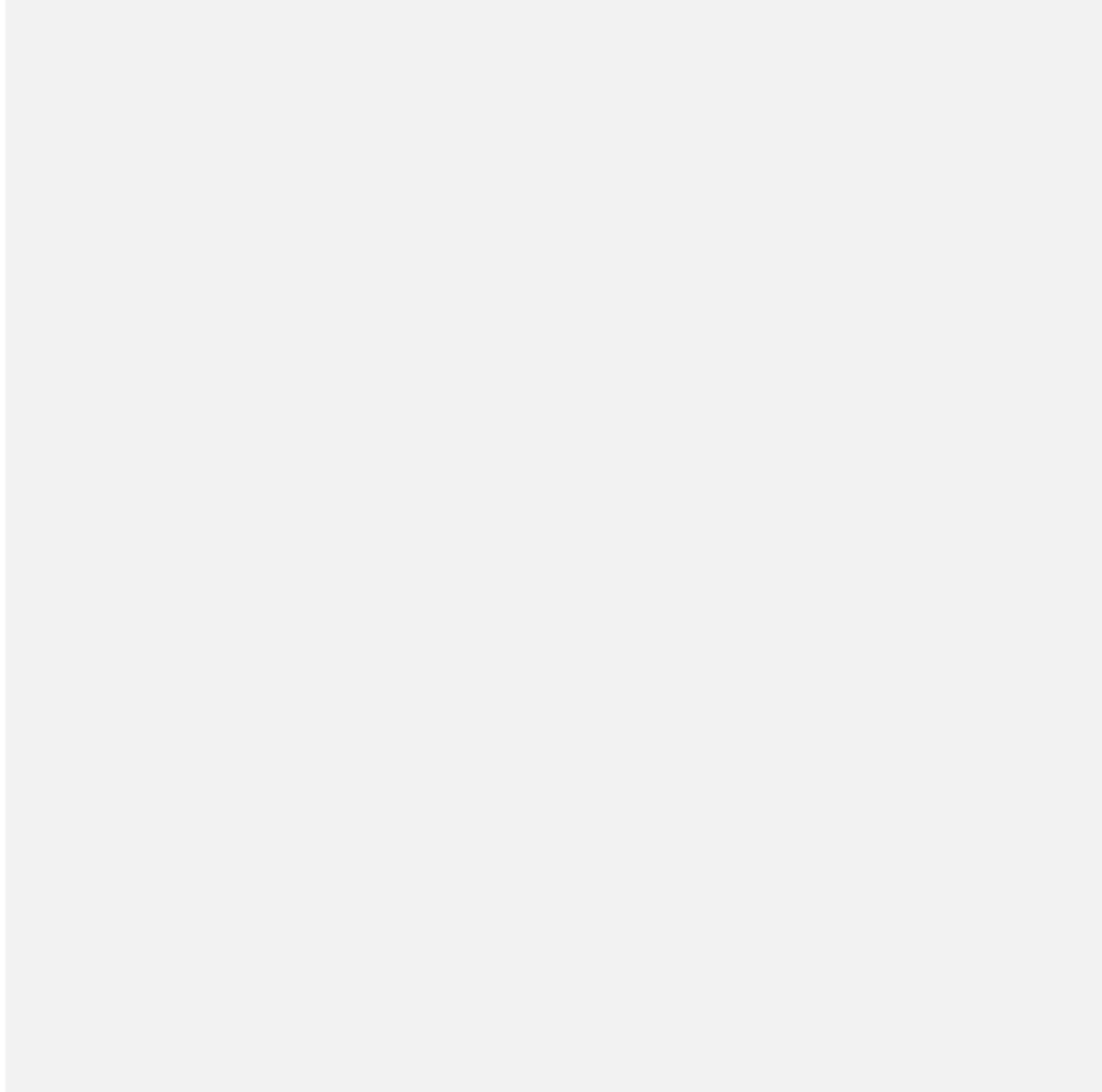
AGL has a few BMW i3 electric vehicles in its fleet, and promises to have 10 per cent of its fleet in EVs by 2018 *Mark Bean*

"For a dollar a day if you have an electric vehicle and you have an AGL smart meter and a charger you can get energy for that car for \$1 a day, as much as you like," Mr Vesey told the conference on Tuesday.

AGL will either hook up to electric vehicle chargers customers already have installed or supply them with a charger. Electric vehicle chargers cost about \$1000.

Mr Vesey said AGL is looking at a range of new services to add to the traditional electricity supply business which is flatlining as more households add solar panels, energy efficient appliances and increasingly batteries and smart meters to reduce their reliance on the centralised grid.

"We continue to try to find new applications that customers want. We continue to try to build load," he said, adding that growth in demand is important because without that the National Electricity market would not overcome its 7000 megawatt overcapacity.



Technology pioneer Simon Hackett charges his Tesla Model S from a Redflow battery at his business park. *Simon Hackett/Redflow*

He outlined a future in 2050 in which not just households but smart devices talk to each other to optimise their energy usage in the interests of their owners as the computational power of the "internet of things" continued to multiply.

For now, AGL plans to install 1000 storage batteries in South Australian homes and businesses to trial "micro power plant" technology which enables individual households and firms to trade their surplus solar power to neighbours who need it at certain times and buy their surplus power at other times when they have a need.

Mr Vesey said the company chose South Australia because of the problems with its network stability and price volatility caused by having the highest penetration of renewable energy - more than 40 per cent - of any state.

Details of the final offer are still being worked out but charging two vehicles would cost \$2 a day.

AGL has committed to having 10 per cent of its fleet in electric vehicles or hybrids by 2018. It currently has a couple of Mitsubishi Outlanders and some extended range BMWs i3.

The initiative comes as traditional electricity suppliers grapple with rapid change in technology, consumer preference and government regulation.