

Why Buy an Electric Car?

Electronic cars are arriving faster than ever and with many governments inflicting heavy tax on petrol and diesel vehicles, we think it is the right time to evaluate whether or not to buy an electric car. We will be assessing the environmental impact, fuel consumption, performance, the financial worth and will be looking at the limitations of different electrical vehicles.

Environmental Impact

Non-electric cars account for 22% of the UK's emissions which amounts to 184.22 million tonnes of carbon dioxide which is obviously not sustainable. On average, the CO₂ emissions of non-electric cars (122.5 g CO₂/km). In comparison electric the carbon emissions of an electric car are around 17 – 30% lower than driving a petrol or diesel car. The emissions from electricity generation are also dramatically improved when low carbon electricity is used. It is also important to remember, the is very new technology, which means it still is going to develop and maximise efficiency. All electric vehicles produce zero emissions which drastically improves the air quality in urban areas. Not to mention, no noise pollution, an issue which effects 30% of the population. Yet another reason to buy an electric car.



Fuel Consumption

Companies that manufacture vehicles have always tried to exploit the amount of fuel required to go a certain distance, MPG, because that will determine popularity, income and profit. The MPG is also important as it can also dictate the fuel prices and thus the entire fuel economy. As of now, diesel is currently the most expensive and is the second MPG efficient type of vehicle behind electric which is also the cheapest. However, on motorways the figures change, putting diesel ahead of the average electric by a significant amount although different electronic models are being developed that should be capable of rivalling the diesel.

Average fuel economy figures			
Fuel type	Average mpg (combined)	Average mpg (around town)	Average mpg (motorway)
Diesel	53.8	49.7	45.2
Petrol	44.9	38.6	38.1
Petrol-hybrid	50.6	92.4	37.3

Performance and Feel

An electric vehicle will very rarely jolt from first to sixth gear, and with effortless squeeze on the accelerator you can get to your required speed smoothly. The unproblematic transition means you can rest your clutch foot. The interior designs are a certain gawking point for anyone who has ever seen an electric vehicle, they contain not only the newest technology but also the most comfortable fabrics to really optimise the driving experience. Not to mention the energy regeneration in most electric cars, which means a longer battery life.



Financial Worth

Currently electric cars have a higher initial price, but it is undoubtedly worth it due to the lower tax charge and the lower fuel costs. Due to their engines being simpler, they are also cheaper to maintain and or repair. This is not only in England but countries like Japan and America too. Especially with governments wishing for all cars to be electric, why not get ahead of the curve and buy one now?

Advantages and Limitations

Advantages:

- Eco Friendly-no pollution, doesn't affect air quality
- No noise pollution
- Can save from £100-200 on taxes a year
- Cheap to repair and maintain
- Electricity is cheaper than diesel

Limitations

- Unable to complete long range journeys
- Electric vehicles can take very long to charge
- It costs a lot of money initially
- Charging stations aren't always available



