

# FIRST impressions

Most Executives nowadays know the value of keeping your company as eco-friendly as possible, both in terms of savings and image. But why not push the envelope even further – and consider one of our favourite green cars.

## Audi A3 Sportback e-tron

The 2014 World Car of the Year added the potential for zero emissions motoring to its repertoire when the A3 Sportback e-tron became the first plug-in hybrid to join the Audi range last year. The five-door compact hatchback combines a conventional 1.4-litre TFSI petrol engine with an electric motor to deliver impressive performance, exceptional efficiency and, just as crucially, complete freedom from range limitation. The etron is capable of covering up to 176.6mpg with CO2 emissions of just 37g/km. With the combination of electric motor and combustion engine,

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an overall operating range of up to 584 miles is possible. What's more, the green Audi is good for a 0-62mph sprint of 7.6 seconds and a top speed of 137mph.

Priced from: £34,950

# Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

If there is a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) that may change the way we think about electric and hybrid cars, it is

Mitsubishi's Outlander Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV). It is a straightforward family motor that doesn't cost a bomb and is exempt from road tax and the London congestion charge. It uses both electric and petrol power and can travel 32.5 miles on battery juice – more than enough to accommodate most daily average journey distances. The impressive electric range gives the vehicle significant environmental

credentials. It emits just 44g/km of CO2 and the official combined fuel consumption figure is 148mpg. The PHEV will do 0-62mph in 11 seconds and has a top speed of 106mph.

Priced from: £28,249

# Ford Mondeo Hybrid

Within two months of launch, the allnew Ford Mondeo was voted Britain's

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'Best Family Car' by UK Car of the Year judges. Better still; the Mondeo Hybrid combines a specially-developed 2.0-litre petrol engine with an electric motor and battery for a combined mpg of 67.3, reaching 100.9 mpg for urban driving and emitting just 99g/km of CO2. In other words, this eco-friendly Mondeo offers the best of both worlds: the enhanced efficiency and reduced emissions of electric power, and the range and performance of a traditional engine. Top speed is 116mph and 0-62mph can be done in 9.2 seconds.

Priced from: £24,995

# Volkswagen e-up!

Based on the multi-award-winning VW up! city car, the e-up! comes in one high-specification trim level. With zero tailpipe emissions, a range of up to 93 miles in optimum conditions, and a full charge taking less than nine hours from a standard household

socket, the five-door e-up! is as practical as it is environmentally friendly. The e-up! can achieve a top speed of 81 mph; while it can easily keep up with traffic, thanks to a zero to 62mph time of 12.4 seconds.

Priced from: £24,525

### Tesla Model S

The Tesla Model S is a five-door electric car that delivers 312 miles on a single charge. With an outstanding safety record, and accelerating from 0-62mph in 4.5 seconds, the fully electric Model S breaks the mould. There's even a Model S iPhone app which puts Model S drivers in direct communication with their cars anytime, anywhere. Owners can use the app to check on charging progress, start or stop charging, and heat up or cool down the Model S before driving (even if it's in a garage). Benefits include zero road tax, zero showroom tax, and







exemption from the London Congestion Charge.

Priced from: £55,335

### BMW i3

The BMW i3 is utterly awesome. Irrespective of whether you choose the wholly electric i3 or the rangeextender version, the rear wheels are driven by the same electric motor. It has 168bhp, enough to take the cityfocused i3 to a top speed of 93mph. Perhaps more markedly, though, it feels tremendously rapid around town. In fact, you will find it hard to resist large, traditionally powered vehicles at traffic lights. Certainly, with a high-quality cabin, its sophisticated electric motor and its state-of-the-art connectivity, you will find the BMW a peach to drive. On top of all that, its running costs are low, making the i3 an ideal urban jungle green machine.

Priced from: £30,980