

Choose the right powertrain to lower your CO2

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Like most international companies, car manufacturers have carbon footprint reduction targets. These are sharpened year by year, resulting in ever more electric and plug-in hybrid models, but also other alternative fuel cars coming to market. What are the available cars? What about their TCO? And which vehicles suit your needs?

ALD Automotive helps you find answers to these questions in a series of 3 articles. The first one focuses on electric cars, the second on plug-in hybrid vehicles and the last one on alternative fuels.

Is it the right time to go electric?

2019 saw the arrival of a few new EVs, but these mainly belong to the middle and upper segment. 2020 brought a plethora of more affordable models in the lower segments despite an extraordinary worldwide context. As such, they become accessible to many more company car drivers.

There is no denying that EVs are a key part in reducing CO₂ emissions – both for OEMs and their customers. In a few years' time, they will become the only vehicles allowed to enter low-emission zones, making them a must-integrate for companies who need to send out their staff into town and the Covid-19 crisis has definitely increased the awareness on this need for energetical transition.

Fortunately, battery technology has improved and costs have come down considerably, resulting in EVs that suit the needs a large proportion of employees. Even the smaller electric cars now offer 300 km of range while boasting a compelling TCO.

Still, the Total Cost of Ownership depends very much on the country. Most of European countries have recently introduced substantial fiscal support, nevertheless an ad-hoc approach based on local specificities has to be considered. Also, the electricity cost in the country concerned can vary considerably and plays an important role in offsetting the higher list price of an EV.

Finally, the availability of a charging point at home or at work is a sine qua non to make electric driving work. In short, EVs may become a viable alternative for many more drivers, it is a matter of checking whether all conditions are met – both practical and financial – to make them work.

Dozens of new models

Identifying which employees in which countries are eligible for e-motoring is one thing, selecting the right EV suppliers another. To make life a bit easier, ALD has drawn up an overview of the new EV models coming to market in 2020, segment by segment.

They are sure to cause a shake up in the current top 10, which includes best-sellers like the BMW i3, Hyundai Ioniq, Nissan Leaf, Kia e-Niro, Hyundai Kona, Jaguar I-Pace, Audi E-tron, Mercedes EQC and Tesla Model 3.

A-segment (small city cars)

- **Honda e**: a neo-retro city car with a massive digital display for the ultimate connected experience.
- **Seat Mii/Skoda Citigo iV/VW e-Up**: these revamped triplets offer about 250km of range for very interesting prices.
- **Fiat 500e**: a mythic model which becomes electric, offering two packs of batteries with a range up to 320km.

B-segment (large city cars)

- **Opel Corsa E/Peugeot e-208**: these PSA siblings offer compelling TCO credentials and up to 340km of range.
- **Renault Zoé**: this e-pioneer received a thorough update involving a serious quality enhancement and up to 400km of range thanks to a bigger battery.

B SUV & C Segment (compact cars)

- **DS3 Crossback E-Tense**: a small premium crossover based on the Peugeot e-208/Opel Corsa E with more than 300km of range.
- **Peugeot e-208 & Opel Mokka E**: these crossover cousins share their underpinnings with the e-208/Corsa E, offering roughly 300km of zero-emission motoring freedom.
- **VW ID3**: probably the most anticipated German car of the past years. It offers three battery pack sizes to suit everyone's needs (from 330 to 550 km).
- **Lexus UX300e**: Toyota's premium sub brand brings a competitor to the DS3 Crossback, offering a similar range but better performance thanks to its 150kW motor.

- **Mercedes EQA:** an A-Class based crossover of which not many details are known at this point, apart from the fact that it will be the entry-level EQ model.

C SUV/D Segment (midsize cars)

- **Polestar 2:** Volvo's performance-oriented sister brand promises 300kW worth of electric horses, 500km of range and class-leading infotainment.
- **Tesla Model 3:** 2020 should see the arrival of the Standard Range model, which still gets you over 300km from home on a single charge.
- **Volvo XC40 P8 Recharge:** basically a Polestar 2 in Volvo's successful crossover outfit. Like its relative, its infotainment is powered by Android.
- **VW ID4:** a crossover derivative of the ID3 that is likely to be presented in March at the Geneva Motor Show.

D SUV/E Segment (large cars)

- **BMW iX3:** the all-electric model of the X3 promises 450km with its 75kWh battery, which can be charged at a 150kW DC fast charger.
- **Audi Q4 e-tron:** as its name suggests, the Q4 slots just below the Q5 and is supposed to feature an 83kWh battery which should be good for some 450km of range.
- **Ford Mach-e :** the first full electric vehicle built by Ford and inspired by the legendary Mustang. Two packs of batteries will be available offering up to 600km of range and fast charging features.

E SUV/F Segment (executive cars)

- **Audi e-tron Sportback:** the coupé-esque variant of the e-tron, which offers a choice of two battery packs and a plethora of personalisation options.
- **Jaguar XJ:** the next generation of the British executive saloon will only come as an electric car.
- **Mercedes EQV:** this premium MPV is the only one to offer emission-free luxury travel for up to 8 people.