

GROUPTEST

FLEET
SPECIAL

Green giants

The number of 'green' cars available on the market is increasing at a seemingly exponential rate and it can be difficult to pick the right vehicle

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EFFICIENCY: it's written in large bold letters at the top of every fleet manager's prerequisite list when it comes to sourcing their next batch of cars. You want to get your employees the farthest distance at the lowest possible cost. The market has been deluged with cars plastered with 'eco' and 'hybrid' and the word 'green' written countless times in the brochure, making it easier to find a fuel-efficient vehicle, but also more difficult to pick out the perfect car.

No list of green cars can ever claim to be purely objective or comprehensive, but what follows is a selection of cars chosen for their suitability for fleet or business use, and which offer options for different mileages and uses.

As a result, there are no pure electric vehicles on the list. Needless to say, literally and metaphorically, your mileage may vary.



Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

Engine: **119bhp 2.0-litre 4cyl petrol (e-drive)**
 Price: **£28,249, inc £5,000 plug-in car grant**
 CO₂ emissions: **44g/km**
 Combined fuel economy: **148mpg**
 0-60: **10.0 seconds**
 Annual road tax: **£0**

This medium-sized SUV has blazed a trail as a large car that can be plugged into a mains electricity supply. The Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV can offer great running costs, with the practicality of a 4x4.

It has a fuel economy double that of most of the best cars on the road (148mpg) and CO₂ emissions so low (44g/km) you won't pay road tax or the Congestion Charge. Company car tax will be as low as 5%, and the government's electric car grant means you will get £5,000 towards purchase costs.

A word of caution – unless you use battery power all the time, you won't get anywhere near the quoted figures, but strong fuel economy is doable. In addition, list prices are comparable to diesel counterparts in the sector.

PROS

- + Good gadgetry
- + Towing and off-road ability
- + Excellent running costs with good list prices

CONS

- Functional interior that may disappoint some
- No third row of seats
- Handling is workaday



Volvo V60 plug-in hybrid

Engine: **281bhp 2.4-litre 6cyl diesel**
 Price: **£45,175**
 CO₂ emissions: **48g/km**
 Combined fuel economy: **155.2mpg**
 0-60: **6.1 seconds**
 Annual road tax: **£0**

The V60 is not a hybrid in the conventional sense, which is to say that it's not solely designed to be a hypermiling machine. Much like Formula One KERS use energy, road cars can also deploy that extra electrical energy to boost power. As a result, the V60 plug-in can be whatever you want it to be – performance car or 'green' car – returning fuel efficiency in excess of 150mpg if driven solely on electric power.

There are drawbacks in terms of pricing, but the running costs are genuinely low – just 5% in BIK, no Congestion Charge and zero VED. Run it off the mains and the benefits just keep coming. Plus you get to have a Volvo V60 – a luxurious motor packed with safety gadgetry and clever touches.

PROS

- + Mix of power performance and high mileage
- + It's a Volvo; it looks calmly cool
- + Two cars for the price of one

CONS

- List price is eye-watering
- Boot space is very small
- Viable EVs may make cars like this obsolete

What's on your list? Tweet Robin
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