Going green – Discover the real cost of sustainable driving

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Author:
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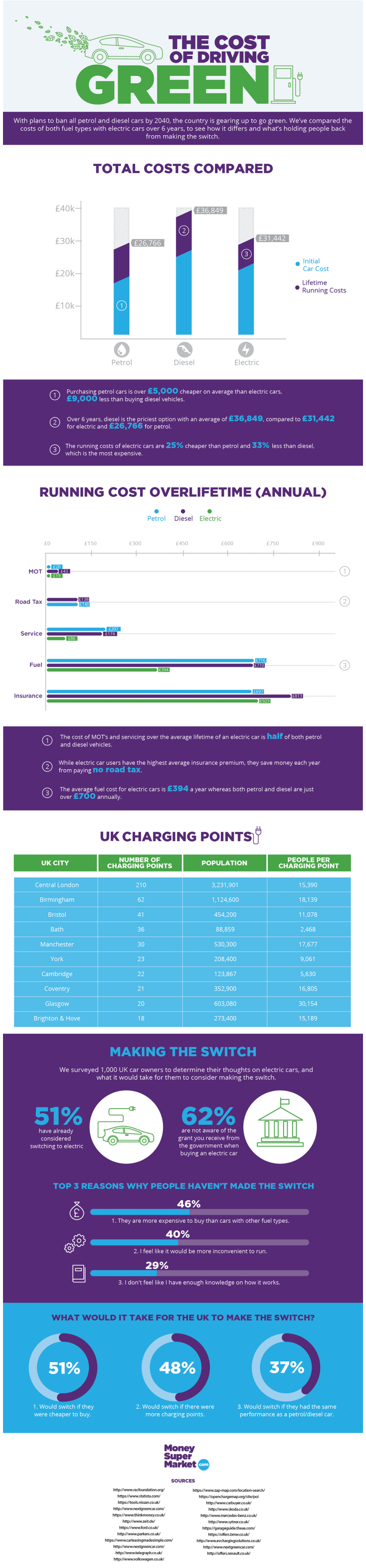
Petrol still cheaper overall than electric and diesel on average…

Low servicing costs and no road-tax making electric cars more viable for drivers…

Running costs of electric car 20% less than petrol and diesel…



With plans to ban all petrol and diesel cars by 2040, the country is gearing up to go green. We've compared the costs of both fuel types with electric cars over 6 years, to see how it differs and what's holding people back from making the switch.

TOTAL COSTS COMPARED

① Purchasing petrol cars is over **£5,000** cheaper on average than electric cars, **£9,000** less than buying diesel vehicles.

② Over 6 years, diesel is the priciest option with an average of **£36,849**, compared to **£31,442** for electric and **£26,766** for petrol.

③ The running costs of electric cars are **25%** cheaper than petrol and **33%** less than diesel, which is the most expensive.

RUNNING COST OVERLIFETIME (ANNUAL)

① The cost of MOT's and servicing over the average lifetime of an electric car is **half** of both petrol and diesel vehicles.

② While electric car users have the highest average insurance premium, they save money each year from paying **no road tax**.

③ The average fuel cost for electric cars is **£394** a year whereas both petrol and diesel are just over **£700** annually.

UK CHARGING POINTS

UK CITY	NUMBER OF CHARGING POINTS	POPULATION	PEOPLE PER CHARGING POINT
Central London	210	3,231,901	15,390
Birmingham	62	1,124,600	18,139
Bristol	41	454,200	11,078
Bath	36	88,859	2,468
Manchester	30	530,300	17,677
York	23	208,400	9,061
Cambridge	22	123,867	5,630
Coventry	21	352,900	16,805
Glasgow	20	603,080	30,154
Brighton & Hove	18	273,400	15,189

MAKING THE SWITCH

We surveyed 1,000 UK car owners to determine their thoughts on electric cars, and what it would take for them to consider making the switch.

51% have already considered switching to electric

62% are not aware of the grant you receive from the government when buying an electric car

TOP 3 REASONS WHY PEOPLE HAVEN'T MADE THE SWITCH

46%
1. They are more expensive to buy than cars with other fuel types.

40%
2. I feel like it would be more inconvenient to run.

29%
3. I don't feel like I have enough knowledge on how it works.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR THE UK TO MAKE THE SWITCH?

51%
1. Would switch if they were cheaper to buy.

48%
2. Would switch if there were more charging points.

37%
3. Would switch if they had the same performance as a petrol/diesel car.

Money Super Market com

SOURCES

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New research from leading price comparison website

MoneySuperMarket (www.moneysupermarket.com) reveals the price of driving electric versus driving a petrol or diesel vehicle. This is based on the average costs of each fuel type over six years, accounting for aspects such as insurance premiums and fuel costs, to determine the best option for drivers in the UK.

After the recent government announcement of plans to prohibit all petrol and diesel vehicles by the year 2040, people are weighing up the idea of switching to ‘green’ driving more than ever before. It appears that environmental concerns are being offset by supposedly high prices, with 45% of people stating they wouldn’t buy an electric/hybrid car because of the cost.

Some of the key findings from the research include:

While the upfront costs of petrol vehicles were the lowest, the average running costs of an electric car are 20% cheaper than diesel and petrol engines, with an average saving of £2,109 across six years.

Filling up your petrol or diesel car is five times more expensive than electric
Petrol cars boast the lowest average insurance premium (£697.19) compared with £923 for electric and £813.56 for diesel

If drivers switch in 2018, they’ll save almost £8,000 on running costs by the time the ban is enforced.

Data was also collected for the number of electric car charging points available to drivers in UK cities. The results were heavily weighted in favour of the capital with 210 points in Central London followed by 62 in Birmingham. Cities like Liverpool and Cardiff had fewer than 10, showing that Britain as a whole may not be fully prepared for an electric revolution.

To find out the best way for you to save money on your driving costs, click here to see the full research.

Methodology

To create an average for each fuel type, an average was taken of three of the top-selling cars covering petrol, diesel and electric models respectively. Data for the upfront costs of each of the nine vehicles were taken from their brand's site as well as costs of servicing, road tax and MOT prices. The 'lifetime' was measured as six years with the average mileage of 7,900 miles a year entered onto the site nextgreencar.com to determine the fuel costs. The overall costs for each model were made into three separate averages for electric, petrol and diesel fuel types. The models used included:

Ford Fiesta Style – Petrol

Volkswagen Golf – Petrol

Ford Focus – Petrol

Skoda Superb Estate – Diesel

Vauxhall Astra Hatchback – Diesel

BMW 3 Series Saloon – Diesel

Renault Zoe Signature – Electric

Nissan Leaf Acenta – Electric

BMW i3 – Electric