



BEST HATCHBACK: CITROEN C4 HDi

With its superb returns, the French star even saw off a hybrid to soar to the top of the class

HERE'S a fact that won't please London Mayor Ken Livingstone or any of the green motoring brigade. Despite their environmentally friendly and efficient image, only one hybrid makes an appearance in our Top 100: the Toyota Prius. It sneaks the final spot in our hatchback top 10 with economy of 41.5mpg.

The news gets worse, too. The Prius showed the biggest discrepancy between the claimed mpg and the actual economy in our entire survey – out on the road, we achieved 37 per cent less than the official figure.

However, its CO₂ output of only 106g/km is the lowest of any car here – although that's unlikely to be of any consolation to drivers hoping for 60 miles to the gallon.

They would be better off opting for the Citroen C4. The funky hatchback was the top performer in this sector – its 1.6-litre engine managed nearly 50mpg, and also made the car the fourth most frugal overall.

It's no shock that diesel models dominate the list, with the BMW 118d not far behind the C4. The German hatchback is now fitted with EfficientDynamics – technology that uses regenerative braking and an automatic start-stop function to cut fuel consumption. As a result, it's claimed to be the most economical car ever made by the Munich giant – yet despite this, it was still nearly

20 per cent off BMW's claimed economy figure of more than 60mpg. It's the same story with company car favourites the Ford Focus and Audi A3. Again, the smaller diesel engines proved the more frugal in these model ranges, although our average returns fell 19 and 20 per cent short of the manufacturers' respective claims.

In fifth place was Honda's refined Civic 2.2 i-CTDi. It has one of our favourite diesel engines, and despite its punchy nature, the silky all-aluminium motor is very economical. What's more, its CO₂ emissions aren't much higher than on smaller-capacity oil-burners.

After the Mercedes A-Class and Renault Mégane, it's a surprise to see the top VW Golf in our tests is the most powerful diesel in the range: the 2.0 TDI 170. Available only in GT trim, it returned an impressive 41.8mpg – only 10 per cent behind the claimed 46.3mpg. But this powerplant also features in the Passat, and we managed better economy of 43.5mpg, despite the saloon's extra weight.

Kia will be boosted by the appearance of the Cee'd in our top 10. Its all-new 1.6-litre diesel is a strong and refined performer. Yet while it averaged an acceptable 41.6mpg with us, the manufacturer says it should return 60.1mpg. That's a difference of 31 per cent, and is another example of the variation between claimed figures and actual returns.



Electronic box claims to increase mpg...



...and C4 did 650 miles between fill-ups



On motorway runs, Citroen topped 50mpg, giving it impressive overall average

CAR	AE FIG	OFFICIAL	DIFF	CO ₂	WEIGHT	DRAG
1. Citroen C4 Coupé 1.6 HDi	49.6	58.8	-16%	129	1,269	0.28
2. BMW 118d	48.5	60.1	-19%	123	1,385	0.30
3. Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi	47.8	58.9	-19%	127	1,416	0.32
4. Audi A3 SE 1.9 TDI	44.4	55.4	-20%	135	1,295	0.33
5. Honda Civic 2.2 i-CTDi	44.2	53.3	-17%	140	1,404	0.33
6. Mercedes A200 CDI	42.7	51.1	-16%	141	1,365	0.29
7. Renault Mégane 1.9 dCi 130	42.1	51.4	-18%	141	1,250	N/A
8. Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI 170	41.8	46.3	-10%	160	1,445	0.32
9. Kia Cee'd 1.6 CRDi	41.6	60.1	-31%	125	1,367	0.33
10. Toyota Prius 1.5	41.5	65.7	-37%	106	1,300	0.28



Not so green? Prius sneaked into top 10



Hi-tech tweaks give 1-Series eco boost