

MOTORING MATTERS by Anthony Goodwin

KIA ECODYNAMICS

It seems that every mainstream car company are offering “greener” vehicles. Kia are no exception with their own range, their first offering is the New Cee’d 2 1.6 CRDi. There will be more cars added to the range in the coming year, they will also in time expand this green arm to include alternative fuel vehicles. They are also talking about fuel cell electric engines. Kia have also looked at their factories and offices to see where and how they can make company greener. Also they have made the cars greener when they reach the end of their lives with most of the car being able to be recycled.

THE CEE'D ECODYNAMICS GREEN

So what makes the Cee’d EcoDynamics green? Not only do you get Kia’s great 1.6 CRDi engine with Co2 emissions of 110 g/km this means £35 road tax per year. The engine also gives you a great 67.3 mpg which for a car of its size is really impressive. They have also added a 6 speed gear box and energy saving tyres, this are not just on the EcoDynamics they are now standard across the Cee’d range. Kia has given the Eco Cee’d ISG, intelligent stop and go, which turns the engine off when the car is stationary. Once you get used to how you get the system to work it is great, this does depend on how you drive to start with! All you have to do is come to a halt, place the car in neutral and take your foot off the clutch, the engine then stops. As soon as you put your foot on the clutch the engine starts up again.

Now some of you will be saying yeah and I bet you don’t even get air con with this green crusader.

Well you would be wrong! The Cee’d 2 EcoDynamics comes with air con, Bluetooth connectivity and alloy wheels as standard, so it’s not a basic trim. The only thing for me is it’s the only trim level you can have the EcoDynamics model in, but on balance it’s very well equipped and you can have a look at the options list!

How does it drive? It drives exactly the same as the standard 1.6 CRDi Cee’d, it is great on motorways, one of the options that I would choose is cruise control which will also help on fuel consumption. Round town it’s nippy and the ISG system is great for town and city driving.

Prices start at £13,895 for the pro-Cee’d and £14,995 for the cee’d SW.



KIA MAKE 7 YEAR WARRANTY STANDARD

More good news from those nice people at Kia - the Cee’d 7 year warranty is now standard on all of Kia’s cars. Yes, that’s right every car in Kia’s extensive range now comes with a 7 year, 100,000 mile warranty. So if you are after a super mini then have a look at the Picanto or would you prefer a 4x4 then look at the Sorrento. You will be surprised what you can find at your local Kia dealer. With all models being updated and a brand new model the Venga hitting the dealerships in the next couple of months there really is a model for everyone. When I get the chance I will be testing both the new Sorrento and Venga and will have a full and comprehensive report for you.

FULLY AUTOMATIC SELF PARKING - THE NEXT GOAL

Ultrasound sensors transform many functions on new cars. Rear and front parking sensors have become an essential tool for many motorists; Bosch is at the forefront of many of developments on different models of vehicles. To date some 200 vehicle models are fitted with Bosch parking technology and according to Dr Rainer Kallenbach, Executive Vice President Sales of the Bosch Automotive Electronics division: “We expect a wide range of new parking technologies. These include expanded convenience functions such as parking at right angles, a warning system for side collisions, as well as assistance for driving out of parking spaces and a fully automatic parking function”.

The semi-automatic Bosch park assist technology is already at the state of the art level. It interfaces with the electric power steering unit and carries out all the steering manoeuvres. Regular readers of Motoring Matters will recall we have test driven cars with this technology - all the driver has to do in the parking process is to accelerate and brake. At first it feels odd to trust the vehicle to help park itself but the benefits of this technology include making better use of limited space for parking in cities; taking the stress out of the process for many drivers; a reduction in the damage caused during parking and speeding up the process of parking which helps reduce congestion.

The next step from Bosch will be to provide car companies with an additional function that will assist the driver when pulling out of a parking

space. The function ensures the steering is in the right starting position and it will then carry out the steering manoeuvres to pull out of a parking spot. Once again, all the driver has to do is use the accelerator and brake and be aware of other vehicles.

The next technology, available through the development by Bosch engineers of long-range ultrasound sensors will be parking into a right angle bay, for example in a multi story car park. The long range sensor is required to measure the length of the parking space. A further development, which Bosch refers to as Side Distance Warning for series production, not only monitors the space in front and behind the vehicle but each side. This function provides collision warning for objects that the driver cannot see on either side of the vehicle thus preventing annoying and potentially expensive bodywork damage.

The Bosch long term objective is to make parking completely automatic. The result of the company’s development efforts will be to steer the car into a parking space fully automatically, quickly and safely. The driver’s only role will be to supervise the process. A failsafe mechanism will be provided whereby the system will stop if the driver touches the steering wheel or the brake. Since they first went into production in 1993, Bosch has produced more than 100 million ultrasound sensors making the company the world’s leading supplier. Currently fourteen car companies now offer Bosch’s clever parking technology for some 200 vehicle models.