



# Differences Between Hybrid, Plug-In Hybrid & Electric

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output is rated at 212 hp and 232 lb-ft of torque.

During my test week, on a full charge, the Clarity would show a range of 54 km, and give in return about 48 km of real world driving. Why was the range far less than what's being advertised? Well, temperature had a lot to do with it, and in the cold, when the car needs to run the heater as well, driving range is hence greatly reduced.

However, for my daily running around, the Clarity proved to offer far more electric range than I actually needed. As a result, by charging it every day, I barely ever had the combustion engine come on, during my test week. Furthermore, in my first 100 km of driving, I achieved a score of 2.8 L/100 km. My usual, 300 km test cycle gave me a score of just 3.5 L/100 km, which is also very impressive.

The rest of the Clarity is equally impressive, too. It is a smart looking vehicle, and offers lots of interior space, and an impressive list of features. Thanks to drive modes such as "Eco" or "Sport" - the Clarity offers more thrills than you would expect from such a vehicle.

The 2018 Honda Clarity has a starting price of \$39,900. For



buying such an efficient vehicle, the Ontario government will give you a cheque for \$13,000 - which is a great incentive.

If you want to go even further using electricity, then you need to look at the next vehicle!

2018 Tesla Model X 75D: If you want maximum electric drive, than a fully electric vehicle is the only way to go. While there are a few electric offerings currently in the market, nothing has grabbed the attention quite like Tesla. This relatively new, California-based, company has been capturing headlines for about a decade now, and is showing no signs of slowing down!

The Model X is the company's CUV offering, and not only can it be ordered in five, six, or seven seat configuration, it also has those 'cool' gullwing rear doors.

But, fancy doors and interior features -such as the largest infotainment screen in the business- are all gimmicks compared to its main feature, its electric drive performance. The Tesla Model X 75D has two electric motors -one in the front, and one in the rear- and combined they produce 259 hp and 184 lb-ft of torque. Those numbers don't sound too exciting, but trust me, put your foot in, and the Model X just catapults forward like its been shot out of a cannon. This is a rare case of a vehicle feeling faster than its horsepower numbers would suggest. According to Tesla, the Model X 75D can sprint from 0 to 100 km/h in just 6.2 seconds, and top out at 210 km/h - that is plenty quick!

However, the number most Tesla owners -or would be own-

ers- are interested in, is range. The 75D has a driving range of 381 km, which is very impressive. Both the range, and the performance can be upgraded - they do offer a 100D model, but the 75D is the volume seller, and would serve most of your needs.

However, it is a pricey vehicle, well out of the reach of the masses, as the Model X 75D has a base price of \$102,300. The vehicle I drove, had an as-tested price of \$122,750. Given that a Tesla Model X is considered a luxury vehicle, it does not get any rebates from the Ontario government.

Verdict: We should all do our part in conserving the environment, so buying an efficient vehicles makes sense. However, the limitations of a fully electric vehicle are that even the fastest

charge times -which on the Tesla Model X 75D took about 40 minutes from their supercharging system, which is a level three charger- are not as fast as pulling up to a gas station and filling up your car. The old style hybrids -such as the Toyota Highlander Hybrid- don't make sense either, because they give no real electric driving range, and you just end up with a vehicle that is heavier than it should be, and the fuel savings are only marginal.

So, for now, the best option are plug-in hybrid vehicles. They allow you to run through most of your day using electricity, but if you suddenly need to go out of town, no worries, their on-board gas engine would take you the rest of the way.

Hence, the winner among this trio, is the Honda Clarity.

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