

ECOBEST CHALLENGE 2026

Real life. Real traffic. Real green.

Real life tests of the 2026 ECOBEST Challenge reveal interesting evolutions in electric mobility



SUPPORTED BY QUATTRORUOTE

- Helping European motorists understand how today's electric cars really perform, the independent international organisation AUTOBEST has completed the 2026 edition of its ECOBEST Challenge end- September 2026, in Vairano, Italy. **15 new EVs** from 15 different manufacturers were driven under identical, reproductible, real-life traffic conditions and assessed through 7 tests and proprietary indexes – facts and figures that matter to anyone considering, or already driving, an electric car.

- By alphabetical order, here are the **15 cars** the AUTOBEST jurors tested in the 2026 ECOBEST Challenge**: Audi** Q4 e-tron**, BMW** iX3, BYD Atto 2**, Citroën** ë-C5 Aircross, **Kia** EV2**, Leapmotor** B10**, Mazda**6e, **Mercedes-Benz** CLA 250+, **Opel**/Vauxhall Grandland Electric**, Peugeot** e-5008**, Renault** Twingo**, Tesla** Model Y, **Volvo** EX60, **Xpeng** P7**+, Zeekr** 7GT.



CRITERIA OF SELECTION FOR THE 15 TESTED CARS

- Selection criteria. Only new**, popular EVs** on sale **in Europe** were selected, with a standard entry-level list price **below €65,000** excluding taxes and incentives. Full specifications and all measurement data for each car are available in the annex.

- The ECOBEST Challenge is not for or against any model or brand. It is not a classic magazine comparison test, a record-breaking range attempt or a performance test. It publishes the results of its measurements, based on its proprietary indexes, without rankings or comments, as a basis for European motorists' own decisions.

- For the fourth consecutive time, the 2026 edition received **the Bureau Veritas certification**, recognizing its genuine, comprehensive and consistent approach to testing EVs in real traffic and assessing their real-life green credentials in an unbiased way.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- Introduced five years ago, AUTOBEST key index named EcoC 2 represents the quintessential idea of EV energy efficiency. In this reduced time frame, EcoC 2 already achieved an important recognition among EV consumers and the industry. It is simply how many kilometers of actual range one kWh of the battery can offer for a specific model. This edition marks a new record, giving hopes for future evolution to the 10 km/kWh target set by ECOBEST Challenge few years ago.



- The headline result of 2026 comes from Renault Twingo, which set a new all-time EcoC 2 record of 8.33 km/kWh, surpassing the previous record of 8.17 km/kWh achieved by Dacia Spring.
- Tesla Model Y achieved the second-best result with 7.77 km/kWh, followed by Mercedes-Benz CLA with 7.21 km/kWh. The results show that there is still room for improvement in EV energy efficiency, with the ECOBEST Challenge targeting 10 km/kWh.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- Using the “random human factor” concept, ECOBEST Challenge compares real driving range with official WLTP figures. There is no conflict between EcoC 1 and WLTP range: the first reflects the “real life, real traffic, true data” approach, while WLTP is an official European test designed to come closer to real driving conditions. This year, all 15 cars delivered a real range below their official WLTP figures.

- The best EcoC 1 index came from Kia EV2, with 95%, being the closest car to the official WLTP range. Audi Q4 e-tron was second with 92.6%, followed by Peugeot e-5008 with 90.8%. The lowest result was recorded by Xpeng P7+ with 79.1%, an improvement compared with the lowest results of 77.5% in 2025 and 73% in 2024.

- The ECOBEST Challenge is one of the only independent tests in Europe measuring what happens after the battery reserve indicator reaches zero. All cars were driven to a total depletion of the battery and a final stop. This year, no car stopped immediately after the battery indicator reached zero. All tested vehicles demonstrated a strategic reserve ranging from 1 km (Xpeng P7+) to 32 km (Leapmotor B10). The average remaining range was 16.11 km, compared with 11.1 km in 2025. AUTOBEST recommends keeping this additional range as a strategic reserve rather than relying on it for everyday driving.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- Another interesting result of the ECOBEST Challenge is the energy needed to fully charge cars with totally depleted batteries – index EcoC 3. All the vehicles required more energy than the capacity of their batteries, with charging losses ranging from 4.70% to 18.16%, compared with 5.9% to 21.3% in 2025. Volvo EX60 achieved the best result with only 4.70% energy loss, followed by Zeekr 7GT with 7.45%. Kia EV2 recorded the highest loss at 18.16%.

- The EcoC 4 index was introduced three years ago to give an even better real-life perspective. It measures the car's actual efficiency by taking into consideration the energy supplied by the charger to fill the battery, rather than just its nominal net capacity, together with the real driving range. This index reflects how many kilometers of real driving a car can provide from each kWh of energy actually charged and paid for by the driver.

- The best EcoC 4 result in 2026 was achieved by Renault Twingo, with 7.41 km per real kWh charged, establishing a new record and surpassing the 2025 winner, Leapmotor T03, which achieved 6.89 km/kWh. This result highlights the importance of considering both driving efficiency and charging losses when evaluating the true energy efficiency of an electric vehicle.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- We measured the AC and DC Fast Charging processes with great accuracy using 22 kW AC stations and 400 kW DC stations, the highest DC charging power used so far in the ECOBEST Challenge. This year, the increased station power allowed us to keep pace with the latest developments in electric vehicle charging capabilities.



- A remarkable improvement was recorded in DC Fast Charging (EcoC 7), with no less than four models – Xpeng P7+, Zeekr 7GT, Volvo EX60 and BMW iX3 – requiring only 4 minutes to gain 100 km of real driving range. This is significantly better than the 6 minutes achieved by the 2025 winner, Audi A6 Sportback e-tron, and the 7-minute record set by Kia EV9 in 2024. Mercedes-Benz CLA followed with 5 minutes, while Tesla Model Y required 6 minutes.
- Except for two smaller EVs, all tested cars managed to gain 100 km of range in less than 15 minutes of DC fast charging, setting a new record for the Challenge. Renault Twingo required 22 minutes and BYD Atto 2 needed 20 minutes, reflecting their lower maximum charging capacities of 50 kW and 65 kW respectively.

2026 HIGHLIGHTS & PREMIERES



- For the first time in ECOBEST Challenge history, Ferruccio Lamborghini, scion of the iconic Lamborghini family joined the event as a special guest, His presence sends a powerful message: beyond the prestige of a renowned name, his openness and enthusiasm reflect the importance of sustainable, efficient, and affordable mobility, reinforcing the relevance of the ECOBEST Challenge in shaping the future of everyday motoring.

- For the first time in the history of the ECOBEST Challenge, ZEEKR introduced Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) technology as part of the event. A ZEEKR vehicle operated as the Challenge’s dedicated “energy mobile support”, demonstrating how an electric car can act as a mobile power source and provide assistance during the testing process.



HOW THE ECOBEST CHALLENGE 2025 WAS ORGANIZED

- It took place in Vairano, near Milano, Italy, where the proving ground of Quattroruote is based. The test started and finished at Vairano ASC, where we also recharged the cars.

- AUTOBEST’s professional motoring journalists drove 15 electric cars, all priced below €65,000 before taxes, to answer the questions buyers most often ask about EVs.
- All cars were regular production models, with one person on board, climate control and infotainment on, and tires at the manufacturer’s recommended pressure. All were driven in “Normal” mode, using the brake/regeneration mode in town where available.
- The mixed route combined motorways, extra-urban roads and urban driving across three circuits of different lengths. Weather during the tests: temperatures between 20–25 °C.



- Drivers swapped cars every 30 km to neutralize individual driving styles. All cars drove in convoy behind a lead vehicle setting the average speed and respecting speed limits at all times.

- After the cluster showed 0% / 0 km, each car kept driving at Vairano ASC until it came to a complete stop.





- AUTOBEST thanks its partners for making the 2026 ECOBEST Challenge possible: Quattroruote, widely regarded as Italy’s car bible, for full logistical and technical support; ZEEKR, for the Vehicle-to-Load “energy mobile support” – a first for the Challenge; Xiaomi, for the mobile devices; and Power Cruise Control, developer of the PKC measurement app.

KEY FIGURES

ECO BEST CHALLENGE 2026

SUPPORTED BY QUATTRORUOTE

EcoC 2

- reveals how many km of real driving range a specific car can provide from 1 kWh of the battery -

BRAND	MODEL	EcoC 2	REAL RANGE	Battery Net
		(km/kWh)	km	kWh
Renault	Twingo	8.33	229	27.5
Tesla	Model Y	7.77	466	60
Mercedes-Benz	CLA	7.21	613	85
Kia	EV2	6.84	397	58
Audi	Q4 e-tron	6.14	473	77
BMW	iX3	6.14	640	108.7
Citroën	ë-C5 Aircross	5.92	436	73.7
BYD	Atto 2	5.81	262	45.1
Peugeot	e-5008	5.78	422	73
Opel	Grandland	5.77	425	73.7
Xpeng	P7+	5.74	419	73
Mazda	6e	5.59	380	68
Leapmotor	B10	5.49	357	65
Volvo	EX60	5.30	488	92
Zeekr	7GT	4.92	477	97

KEY FIGURES

ECO BEST CHALLENGE 2026

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EcoC 1

- represents the ratio between the real driving range and the WLTP range -

BRAND	MODEL	EcoC 1	REAL RANGE	WLTP
		(%)	km	km
Kia	EV2	94.98	397	418
Audi	Q4 e-tron	92.56	473	511
Tesla	Model Y	88.76	466	525
Renault	Twingo	87.74	229	261
Citroën	ë-C5 Aircross	87.55	436	498
BMW	iX3	86.84	640	737
Peugeot	e-5008	86.65	422	487
Zeekr	7GT	85.48	477	558
BYD	Atto 2	83.97	262	312
Leapmotor	B10	82.26	357	434
Opel	Grandland	81.57	425	494
Volvo	EX60	79.48	488	614
Mercedes-Be	CLA	79.40	613	772
Mazda	6e	79.33	380	479
Xpeng	P7+	79.06	419	530

KEY FIGURES

EcoC 3

- the ratio between the real energy charged into the battery and the official net capacity -

BRAND	MODEL	EcoC 3	REAL ENERGY CHARGED	Battery Net
		(%)	(kWh)	NET (kWh)
Kia	EV2	18.2	68.53	58
Xpeng	P7+	17.3	85.65	73
Peugeot	e-5008	16.7	85.21	73
Opel	Grandland	16.7	86.01	73.7
Citroën	ë-C5 Aircross	16.0	85.46	73.7
Mercedes-Benz	CLA	15.0	97.71	85
Leapmotor	B10	14.3	74.32	65
BYD	Atto 2	12.9	50.91	45.1
Tesla	Model Y	12.5	67.47	60
Renault	Twingo	12.3	30.89	27.5
Mazda	6e	10.6	75.24	68
Audi	Q4 e-tron	10.3	84.91	77
BMW	iX3	10.0	119.59	108.7
Zeekr	7GT	7.5	104.23	97
Volvo	EX60	4.7	96.32	92

ECO BEST CHALLENGE 2026

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KEY FIGURES

EcoC 4

- states the actual energy efficiency, revealing how many km of real driving range a specific car can provide from 1 kWh coming from charger -

SUPPORTED BY QUATTRORUOTE

BRAND	MODEL	EcoC 4	REAL RANGE	REAL ENERGY CHARGED
		(km/kWh)	km	kWh
Renault	Twingo	7.41	229	30.89
Tesla	Model Y	6.91	466	67.47
Mercedes-Benz	CLA	6.27	613	97.71
Kia	EV2	5.79	397	68.53
Audi	Q4 e-tron	5.57	473	84.91
BMW	iX3	5.35	640	119.59
BYD	Atto 2	5.15	262	50.91
Citroën	ë-C5 Aircross	5.10	436	85.46
Volvo	EX60	5.07	488	96.32
Mazda	6e	5.05	380	75.24
Peugeot	e-5008	4.95	422	85.21
Opel	Grandland	4.94	425	86.01
Xpeng	P7+	4.89	419	85.65
Leapmotor	B10	4.80	357	74.32
Zeekr	7GT	4.58	477	104.23

KEY FIGURES

ECO BEST CHALLENGE 2026

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EcoC 5

- Range after zero km / 0% on the cluster till the final stop of the car –

BRAND	MODEL	EcoC 5
		(km)
Leapmotor	B10	32
Tesla	Model Y	31
BMW	iX3	26
Volvo	EX60	21
Mazda	6e	19
Kia	EV2	18
Peugeot	e-5008	16
Renault	Twingo	15
Zeekr	7GT	14
Opel	Grandland	13
Mercedes-Benz	CLA	12
Citroën	ë-C5 Aircross	12
Audi	Q4 e-tron	7
BYD	Atto 2	5
Xpeng	P7+	1

KEY FIGURES

ECO BEST CHALLENGE 2026

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EcoC 6

- Time required to fill 100 km of range using a 22 kW AC charger -

charged from 0% to 100%

BRAND	MODEL	EcoC 6	AC Charging Capability
		(hh:mm)	(kW)
Kia	EV2	00:50	22.0
Volvo	EX60	00:57	22.0
Zeekr	7GT	01:04	22.0
Tesla	Model Y	01:20	11.0
Renault	Twingo	01:22	11.0
Mercedes-Benz	CLA	01:30	11.0
Audi	Q4 e-tron	01:38	11.0
BMW	iX3	01:44	11.0
BYD	Atto 2	01:49	11.0
Citroën	ë-C5 Aircross	01:57	11.0
Leapmotor	B10	01:58	11.0
Mazda	6e	02:00	11.0
Peugeot	e-5008	02:00	11.0
Xpeng	P7+	02:02	11.0
Opel	Grandland	02:02	11.0

KEY FIGURES

ECO BEST CHALLENGE 2026

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EcoC 7

- Time required to fill 100 km of range using a 400 kW Hpc charger -

charged from 20% to 80%

BRAND	MODEL	EcoC 7	Actual peek in Charging Power	DC Charging Capability
		(hh:mm)	(kW)	(kW)
Volvo	EX60	00:04	347	370
BMW	iX3	00:04	343	400
Xpeng	P7+	00:04	341	446
Zeekr	7GT	00:04	326	420
Mercedes-Ben	CLA	00:05	310	320
Audi	Q4 e-tron	00:10	183	165
Tesla	Model Y	00:06	171	175
Mazda	6e	00:09	162	165
Peugeot	e-5008	00:15	157	160
Citroën	ë-C5 Aircross	00:14	155	160
Opel	Grandland	00:15	154	160
Leapmotor	B10	00:12	147	168
Kia	EV2	00:12	111	112
BYD	Atto 2	00:20	67	65
Renault	Twingo	00:22	37	50

KEY RESULTS & INDEXES

ECOBEST Challenge 2026

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			SPECIFICATION								
BRAND	MODEL	VERSION	POWER	BATTERY		WLTP RANGE		WLTP CONSUMPTION		CHARGING POWER	
			(kW)	GROSS (kWh)	NET (kWh)	Min (km)	Max (km)	Min (kWh/100 km)	Max (kWh/100 km)	AC (kW)	DC (kW)
Audi	Q4 e-tron	Performance S line	210	82	77	511	562	15.8	17,5 (16,6)	11.0	165
BMW	iX3	50 xDrive Msport	345	113.4	108.7	737	737	17.5	17.5	11.0	400
BYD	Atto 2	Boost	130	46.5	45.1	312	312	17.4	17.4	11.0	65
Citroën	ë-C5 Aircross	Comfort Range Max	157	80	73.7	498	520	17.0	17.6	11.0	160
Kia	EV2	Black Line	99.5	61	58	418	418	16.3	16.3	22.0	112
Leapmotor	B10	Design	160	67.1	65	434	434	17.3	17.3	11.0	168
Mazda	6e	Takumi Plus Standard Range	190	68.8	68	479	479	16.6	16.6	11.0	165
Mercedes-Benz	CLA	250+ AMG Line	200	90	85	772	791	12.3	12.7	11.0	320
Opel	Grandland	TBC	157	80	73.7	494	494	17.3	18.2	11.0	160
Peugeot	e-5008	TBC	157	80	73	487	504	17.1	18.4	11.0	160
Renault	Twingo	E-Tech Electric Techno	60	29	27.5	261	261	13.0	13.1	11.0	50
Tesla	Model Y	RWD	220	64	60	525	525	14.0	14.0	11.0	175
Volvo	EX60	P10 Ultra	375	95	92	614	660	16.2	17.4	22.0	370
Xpeng	P7+	RWD Long Range	230	74.9	73	530	530	16.4	16.4	11.0	446
Zeekr	7GT	Privilege AWD	475	100	97	558	558	19.8	19.8	22.0	420
AVERAGE VALUE			211	75	72	509	519	16	17	13	222

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CHALLENGE
2026

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