The cars that are eligible for the government's new EV grant

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[00:00:09] **James Rowe:** If you are thinking of buying a new electric car, the government's new EV grant could save you thousands of pounds.

[00:00:19] **James Rowe:** Hello, it's James here to bring you another great piece of journalism from one of our magazines. This week I found a piece that was written by Dino b Ratti in the September issue of Witch Magazine, which looks at the government's new electric vehicle grant. If you are thinking of making the switch to an ev, this is everything you need to know about how the scheme works, so you can save sustainably.

[00:00:42] **James Rowe:** Here's Dino's piece. Adapted for the podcast This week. Read by Kat er.

[00:00:56] **Kat Cereda:** In the past 12 months, EV registrations have increased significantly. The latest figures show a 31% increase for new EV registrations compared with last year. And EVs accounted for around one in five new cars, but since they're generally more expensive to buy new compared with other fuel types, it's no surprise that registrations have lagged behind government targets, which require manufacturers to register a greater proportion of EVs every year.

[00:01:28] **Kat Cereda:** That's where the electric car grant scheme comes in. It will cut the cost of electric cars as it aims to get more motorists to make the switch under the grant. Drivers will be able to buy a new EV at a reduced price. That's if it costs less than 37,000 pounds and meets various environmental requirements.

[00:01:48] **Kat Cereda:** The discount will be automatically deducted from the purchase price with the manufacturer reclaiming the discount from the government. Since the launch of the grant in mid-July 24, eligible cars have been announced, including models from well-known manufacturers like Citron, Nissan, Reno, and Voxel. The grant has two bands.

[00:02:10] **Kat Cereda:** Most sustainable EVs in band one get a 3,750 pound discount and band two models get 1,500. To be eligible, manufacturers must hold what are called science-based targets, where they commit to reducing their emissions or achieve net zero. There are also restrictions based on where the car and battery are made.

[00:02:33] **Kat Cereda:** This contrasts with previous government grants to boost EV sales, which offered a discount of up to 5,000 pounds and didn't factor endless prices or sustainability requirements. Unlike cars that have received our eBuy endorsement, which we launched for cars earlier this year, the new scheme doesn't take into account the efficiency of EVs.

[00:02:58] **Kat Cereda:** Which plays a big part in the emissions they're responsible for through the generation of electricity. Amid the confusion of the new grant, some brands have moved quickly to launch their own discounts. One week after the government announced its new scheme, Chinese brand GWM introduced a so-called green grant discount for its Aura oh three electric car of 3,750 pounds, which matches the maximum grant offered by the government.

[00:03:28] **Kat Cereda:** Other Chinese car makers have followed suit MG has announced its EV car grant, which offers 1,500 pounds off a selection of its EVs and both Leap Motor and Sky well are offering similar discounts. Some other brands have also introduced their own discounts. Fiat, for example, has applied a 1,500 pound discount on all of its EVs.

[00:03:52] **Kat Cereda:** While Volkswagen announced the same for certain IDD four models, it's no wonder that brands unlikely to be eligible for the government grant have announced that own discounts. As a consequence, UK buyers must either wait for their preferred EV to be confirmed as eligible. Or opt for a brand that's taken matters into its own hands.

[00:04:12] **Kat Cereda:** In many cases, these will be the cars that in the government size at least, are worse environmentally. While we expected the government to react, this new grant appears to have created additional confusion for the industry. The requirement to state where cars and batteries are made is tricky as EV batteries can be made in one country and the rest of the car built in another.

[00:04:35] **Kat Cereda:** Some brands that previously focused heavily on EVs saw orders disappear overnight after the announcement as customers held back in hope of a better deal. While several brands have confirmed they're applying for grants, industry insiders have told, which that they're unclear as to exactly how the scheme will operate.

[00:04:55] **Kat Cereda:** Reactions have also been mixed while being supportive of the scheme. The Chief Executive of the industry body, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, or SMMT. My cause told the guardian that it has been developed by government without consultation with industry. Brands, including Ford and the Volkswagen group, have also reacted positively.

[00:05:18] **Kat Cereda:** While the STIs group told us it will be submitting applications, but as it stands, only nine brands have had cars officially approved for the grant with only one getting the full 3,750 pounds. You can keep track of all eligible cars and offers from other EV brands in our regularly updated guide@which.co uk slash ev grant.

[00:05:50] **James Rowe:** Thanks for listening to this podcast from Witch, the UK's consumer champion. You can find plenty more advice about what we discuss today in the show notes. There you'll also find a link to become a witch member for 50% off the usual price and offer exclusively available to you are podcast listeners joining, which will not only give you access to all of our product reviews, our app.

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