

Fuel Savers from BMW

By Ian Lynas

WE all like to extract the maximum mileage from a gallon of fuel and with prices at the pumps in the ascendancy once more it becomes paramount for many. BMW has the answer and I caught up with two models which major on delivering excellent economy.

I was reunited with the 320d ED, of course there is now a new version, which is currently the top seller in the 3 Series line-up in the UK and I am not at all surprised on hearing this news when you consider that it is possible to 68.9mpg on the combined fuel cycle.

Nothing is sacrificed with this car it can reach 62mph from rest in eight seconds and on to a top speed of 143mph.

Power delivery is sweet as you have 163bhp at the command of your right foot.

The new BMW 320d Efficient Dynamics saloon to give it the full title is a car of contradictions, larger and more spacious than the model it

replaces, but lighter; quicker in many cases and even fuel-efficient; and more nimble and agile while even safer.

There are major improvements in style, quality, comfort and specification for only a minimal price increase, (£28,080).

Worth noting BMW currently has eight versions of the new 3 Series Saloon with CO2 emissions at or below 120g/km while competitors can muster only one each.

This brings clear benefits to owners in terms of Benefit-in-Kind company car taxation and Vehicle Excise Duty, while the 320d ED model, with CO2 emissions of less than 110g/km, allows businesses which outright purchase, to write off 100 per cent of the cost of the car against tax in the first year.

The previous model was only available with a manual transmission now for an extra £1,525 you can opt for the new eight-speed automatic transmission, whilst retaining the same 109g/km emissions level.

Light-alloy wheels of at least 17 inches in diameter and shod with Run-flat tyres linked to a Tyre Puncture Warning System are now fitted to every version apart from the 320d ED which has 16-



inch aerodynamic alloys and non-Run-flat tyres.

The rolling resistance of the tyres has been reduced by 15 per cent compared with those on the earlier model.

Now to the second fuel miser and it comes from the new BMW 1 Series family and which offers an even more sporty but fuel-efficient package. This is boosted by BMW's Efficient Dynamics technologies as standard.

The new model is longer and wider than the model it replaces with a sleeker, sportier styling, while increased cabin space and comfort result in an all new interior.

The drive train layout, with a longitudinally mounted in-line engine at the front and rear-wheel drive, which is unique within the compact segment.

This not only improves the handling, but is also reflected in its design, with typical BMW proportions.

As its name suggest power output is a modest 116bhp, but performance cannot be described as such, rest to 62mph in 10.5 seconds and on to a top speed of 121mph.

The real good news story comes with fuel economy and emissions, 74.3mpg on the combined fuel cycle and 99g/km, the first production BMW to break the 100g/km barrier and with it comes all the associated tax benefits.

All round a great package from BMW at an affordable price, £20,885.

Summing up two cars from BMW which lead the way in the race for excellent economy with no sacrifice in performance etc.