

ROAD TEST

The charming Kia has a green soul

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Kia's first all-electric vehicle, the 2015 Soul EV, is green both inside and out.

In any EV (Electric Vehicle), one expects a powerful motor/battery combination and at least a 140 km range.

But the Soul EV approach is a more complete green package starting with the interior with Underwriters' Laboratory awarding its first ever automotive validation for the high percentage of bio-based material used in the cabin.

Bio-based plastics using cellulose and sugar cane are used throughout on such components as seat trim, headliner, door panels, roof pillars and carpeting. In all, 23 different interior parts are made with eco-friendly materials.

The Soul EV is the first Kia to use Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) technology for the instrument cluster that is brighter but consumes less energy.

The heating and air conditioning system can be programmed for "driver only" operation that stops all air flow to the passenger side and rear of the car, thus cutting down dra-



The 2015 Kia Soul EV is distinguishable by its unique colour scheme with the use of white with soft blue accenting.

matically on energy draw from the battery.

Kia believes the Soul EV is the segment leader when it comes to the use of eco-friendly material.

Powering the Soul EV is an 81.4 kW (109 hp) electric motor producing 210 lb/ft of torque that is linked to a high-capacity 27 kWh lithium-ion polymer battery pack.

Most batteries are usually planted upright behind the back seat. But in the Soul EV, because it can be moulded, it is shaped like a palette and goes under the

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