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Kia EV6

## NEW VEHICLE REVEAL : 2022 KIA EV6

### New name and new direction

Kia, while experiencing huge market growth overall, has gone fairly light on alternative powertrains to date, offering a couple of hybrid adaptations of existing models at times, also introducing the hybrid-only Niro in 2017, notable for making its hybrid status an assumed part of its identity, not a tacked-on descriptor. Their first full battery electric, the Niro EV, arrived two years later.

Now, like many other manufacturers, they are diving into the EV realm head-on.

The reveal of the Kia EV6 was immediately preceded by a corporate name adjustment: much as Apple dropped "Computer" from their name almost 15 years ago as their focus broadened, Kia Motors America has followed a parallel global corporate lead, rechristening itself simply "Kia America." It's part of what they call Plan S or Plan Shift, a stated \$25 billion plan for new transport solutions. (All the stated elements so far seem to still incorporate motors, so we'll be curious what else they may have up their sleeves that killed off the M word.)

Niro was their first dedicated hybrid, but its EV version was derivative of that. Thus, the new EV6 is their first dedicated EV.

Built on a new Kia Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP), the EV6 is long, low and sleek, evok-

ing their European shooting brake models, but in the US being called a "low-profile crossover." Its 114.2-inch-wheelbase—equal to the three-row Kia Telluride—provides generous cabin space and a low center of gravity for sure-footed handling; aerodynamics also benefit.

Kia moves to a rear-drive basis for the EV6, with a two-motor all-wheel drive system available, and uses a lithium ion polymer battery with a nickel-rich cathode and graphite anode.

There are four builds as of now: two RWD, two AWD. Three have a 77.4 kWh battery (with a 58.0 available for RWD). Three have a 160 kW rear motor (adding a 70 kW front motor on the base AWD, or moving 160 kW to the front and replacing the rear with 270 kW on the top-performing AWD).

EV6 claims the world's first 800V multi-charging architecture, for ultra-fast DC charging from ten to 80 percent charge in less than 18 minutes (enough for 210 miles of range out of a targeted 300 total).

As is the newest trend, Kia turns range anxiety and recharging on their heads with a Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) function that turns your EV6 into a mobile power source for computers, camping, tailgating or backup home power.

Pricing and availability dates will follow. ■

DRIVETRAIN	MOTOR(S)	Battery	HP	0-to-60 mph
RWD	160 kW rear	58.0 kWh	167 hp	na
	160 kW rear	77.4 kWh	218 hp	na
AWD	70 kW front + 160 kW rear	77.4 kWh	313 hp	est 5.1 sec
	160 kW front + 270 kW rear	77.4 kWh	576 hp	est < 3.5 sec

