

Brussels plant kicks off production for the new Audi Q8 e-tron

- Gerd Walker, Audi board member for Production and Logistics, praises Brussels' pioneering role in advancing electrification and sustainable production across all plants
- The electric traction motors for production are transported from Hungary to Brussels by green freight trains
- The Belgium plant has had carbon-neutral production since 2018 and is a pioneer for Audi's strategic environmental program, Mission: Zero

Brussels, December 14, 2022 – On December 14, the first Audi Q8 e-tron* drives off the production line at the Brussels plant. It marks the beginning of an era for the new top model in Audi's electric SUV range. The plant has been a role model for sustainable production since the production of the Audi e-tron began. Around 160,000 units of Audi's first electric model have been delivered since 2018.

Audi board member for Production and Logistics Gerd Walker underlines the importance of the brand's new top model: "With its increased efficiency and range, as well as its sharpened design, the new Audi Q8 e-tron* is a strong statement for electromobility." Walker also highlights the outstanding role of the Brussels site as a pioneer for sustainable production: "Brussels has done valuable pioneering work. We are learning from our experience of having delivered around 160,000 vehicles worldwide. As the next step, we will leverage this experience to ramp up battery production in Ingolstadt." The battery assembly facility in Brussels is playing a groundbreaking role for the entire Group.

Unlike many competitors, Audi focuses on transforming production from the inside out with the aim of heralding the future of production at Audi, the 360factory. Meanwhile, Brussels is a model for some areas of this innovative plant concept. To Audi, investing in existing plants is 'sustainability in action' – economically, ecologically, and socially. "The path Audi is taking conserves resources and accelerates our transformation," Walker emphasizes. For Xavier Ros, Audi board member for Human Resources and Organization, Brussels provides valuable insights concerning targeted employee qualification programs. "The experience Brussels has gained since 2018 can be used across locations throughout the Audi Group."

*The equipment, data and prices specified in this document refer to the model range offered in Germany. Subject to change without notice; errors and omissions excepted.
The collective fuel/electric power consumption and emissions values of all models named and available on the German market can be found in the list provided at the end of this text.

Audi Brussels CEO Volker Germann also highlights the role the staff have played: “Building the Audi Q8 e-tron* will take more than just our entire infrastructure. Above all, it is our team of passionate employees who come together to make this car.”

Brussels is a role model for sustainable production

The Audi Q8 e-tron* will reach customers in Europe and the United States as a certified net carbon-neutral¹ car. From 2025, production at all Audi plants will be carbon neutral as part of the company-wide environmental program Mission:Zero. Named “Factory of the Future” in 2020 by the employers’ association Agoria, Brussels achieved this distinction as early as 2018. Since production of the Audi e-tron began, the Belgium site has been recognized as the world’s first certified carbon-neutral high-volume production plant in the premium segment. The site switched to green power back in 2012. Among other things, Audi Brussels installed one of the region’s largest photovoltaic systems on the plant premises, covering 107,000 square meters. The system generates around 9,000-megawatt hours of power from sustainable energy every year. That’s enough to charge some 90,000 Audi Q8 e-tron* units and reduce carbon emissions by 1,881 tons. The companies that supply the battery cells are obliged to use only renewable energy sources for production. The electric traction motors for production are transported from Hungary to Brussels by green freight. Since May 2022, Audi has been using rail transport on the approximately 1,300-kilometer route, a decision that reduces carbon emissions by around 2,600 tons annually.

AUDI AG has owned the Belgium site since 2007. After acquiring it, Audi Brussels converted the plant to produce the Audi A1, a new addition to the Audi model range at the time. 2018 saw the birth of the Audi e-tron. In 2021, Audi Brussels produced 43,866 all-electric cars. Starting in the second half of 2023, more than 3,000 employees will also make the Audi Q4 e-tron* here.

The new Audi Q8 e-tron with increased efficiency

The new Q8 e-tron’s* optimized drive concept, improved aerodynamics, and higher charging performance and battery capacity result in an increased range of up to 582 kilometers in the SUV and up to 600 kilometers in the Sportback (both according to the WLTP). Audi also uses recycled materials in some components for the Audi Q8 e-tron*. These materials, recovered via a recycling process, save resources and ensure a closed material cycle that is both efficient and sustainable.

¹ Audi understands net-zero carbon emissions to mean a situation where, after other possible reduction measures have been exhausted, the company offsets the carbon emitted by Audi’s products or activities and/or the carbon emissions that currently cannot be avoided in the supply chain, manufacturing, and recycling of Audi vehicles through voluntary offsetting projects carried out worldwide. In this context, carbon emissions generated during a vehicle’s utilization stage, i.e., from when it is delivered to the customer, are not considered.

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The Audi Group is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium and luxury segments. The brands Audi, Ducati, Lamborghini and Bentley produce at 21 locations in 13 countries. Audi and its partners are present in more than 100 markets worldwide.

In 2021, the Audi Group delivered around 1.681 million cars from the Audi brand, 8,405 sports cars from the Lamborghini brand and 59,447 motorcycles from the Ducati brand to customers. In the 2021 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved a total revenue of €53.1 billion and an operating profit before special items of €5.5 billion. More than 89,000 people all over the world work for the Audi Group, around 58,000 of them in Germany. With its attractive brands, new models, innovative mobility offerings and groundbreaking services, the group is systematically pursuing its path toward becoming a provider of sustainable, individual, premium mobility.

Fuel/electric power consumption and emissions values of the models named above:****Audi Q8 e-tron**

Combined electric power consumption in kWh/100 km: - (NEFZ); 24,4–19,5 (WLTP);
combined CO₂ emissions in g/km (g/mi): 0 (0)

Audi Q4 e-tron

Combined electric power consumption in kWh/100 km: - (NEFZ); 20,2–16,1 (WLTP);
combined CO₂ emissions in g/km (g/mi): 0 (0)

***The indicated consumption and emissions values were determined according to the legally specified measuring methods. Since September 1, 2017, type approval for certain new vehicles has been performed in accordance with the Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicles Test Procedure (WLTP), a more realistic test procedure for measuring fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions. Since September 1, 2018, the WLTP has gradually replaced the New European Driving Cycle (NEDC). Due to the more realistic test conditions, the consumption and CO₂ emission values measured are in many cases higher than the values measured according to the NEDC. Additional information about the differences between WLTP and NEDC is available at www.audi.de/wltp.*

At the moment, it is still mandatory to communicate the NEDC values. In the case of new vehicles for which type approval was performed using WLTP, the NEDC values are derived from the WLTP values. WLTP values can be provided voluntarily until their use becomes mandatory. If NEDC values are indicated as a range, they do not refer to one, specific vehicle and are not an integral element of the offer. They are provided only for the purpose of comparison between the various vehicle types. Additional equipment and accessories (attachment parts, tire size, etc.) can change relevant vehicle parameters, such as weight, rolling resistance and aerodynamics and, like weather and traffic conditions as well as individual driving style, influence a vehicle's electric power consumption, CO₂ emissions and performance figures.

Further information on official fuel consumption figures and the official specific CO₂ emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the "Guide on the fuel economy, CO₂ emissions and power consumption of all new passenger car models," which is available free of charge at all sales dealerships and from DAT Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH, Hellmuth-Hirth-Str. 1, 73760 Ostfildern-Scharnhausen, Germany (www.dat.de).