DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRIC FORD FOCUS

The Electric Ford Focus only has a few differences from the petrol model:

1. To “start” the car you need only to turn the key to the on position and wait for a couple of seconds. The motor will not run until you depress the throttle pedal. Do not press the throttle pedal until the car is in gear, the clutch is out and you are ready to drive. Use second or third gear for around town. Do not use first or fifth gear.

2. The motor does not idle when the throttle is fully released. This means you can leave the car in gear all the time and do not need the clutch to start off. It is recommended that you do not use the clutch when starting off because the motor is difficult to hear and this makes clutch starting difficult. Using the clutch to change gears otherwise is fine.

3. The motor and controller both operate more efficiently at higher revs so driving the car in second or third gear is better for economy. Fourth gear is OK for cruising on the freeway at 90 to 110 km/h. Fifth gear might cause the motor to overheat.

4. The electric motor cannot be used as an aid to parking since it does not offer any resistance to turning. The hand brake is equipped with a buzzer to remind you to apply it when parking. The buzzer will sound if the key is off and the brake is not applied.

5. Electric cars have a range of 130km or so and the fuel gauge is calibrated to reflect this. The batteries will last longer if the car is driven to 110 km or less between charges. The fuel gauge, like most cars does not seem to operate for the first part of fuel/battery usage. In this case it takes about 20 km before it starts to move. This is normal.

6. The Battery Management system will shut the car down if the batteries get too low. There is a warning period though, in which the alarm will sound when the car accelerates or is under load. This warning will get more frequent as the batteries get lower. Usually there are about 5 km left after the first warning.

6. The batteries can be topped up at any time. There is no memory effect.

7. The LED’s in the centre console indicate the following:
   (a) slow, blue flashing is stand by mode
(b) solid blue is charging mode  
(c) solid green is drive mode  
(d) green/red flashing is imminent shut down  
(e) red is shut down due to low battery

8. Charging is fully automatic. The leads can be simply plugged in, turned on and left until the car is needed. Allow 5 hours to charge on 3 phase if the batteries are nearly flat and 10 to 12 hours on single phase. The charge time will be less if the batteries are partially charged.

9. The cab heater is enabled by the black rocker switch next to the rear demister switch on the centre console. Red light means the heater is on. It takes a couple of minutes to get to operating temperature. The heating controls on the air conditioning panel need to be operated as well. For energy saving, use the air conditioner or heater only when required. Either unit will reduce the vehicle's range by 5-8%.