5 ways to reduce fuel costs.

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Introduction

Fuel is one of the largest fleet operating expenses. To help control costs, efficient fuel use is essential.

A fleet management solution can provide visibility into five key areas that impact fuel utilization:

- **Speeding**
- **Unnecessary idling**
- **Vehicle maintenance**
- **Navigation and routing**
- **Fuel slippage**

#1: Address excessive speeding.

One way to save money at the pump is to keep track of excessive speeding. For every five mph over 50 mph, you can assume that you're paying an additional $0.23 per gallon for gas.[1]

To identify where speeding is a problem in your company, use a fleet management solution to detect and record vehicle speeds and compare them against posted speed limits. If an issue is identified, here are some recommendations to curb speeding:

- Set speed limits on roadways and freeways to levels 5 or 10 mph max over the limit
- Set up alerts that let supervisors know about any speeding events over the posted speed limit
- Coach drivers on the importance of slowing down and watching RPMs to increase miles per gallon
- Reward and commend drivers who stay within speed range

Find a solution that offers:

- Customizable reports and dashboards that provide insights into driving KPIs
- Customizable alerts that allow speed thresholds to be set
- In-cab coaching and alerts
- Driver scorecards

#2: Identify and manage excessive idling.

Engine idling is another behavior that wastes fuel. Idling can use one-quarter to one-half gallon of fuel per hour.[1]

Similar to how speeding is tracked, fleet management technology monitors and identifies excessive idling. This data helps fleet managers set rules to mitigate it. For example, alerts can be sent for idling that occurs longer than a set time period.

Driver scorecards can help with coaching drivers on best practices, and when improvements are made to idle times, drivers should be rewarded.

The fleet solution you select should help distinguish between productive and nonproductive idling. Taking a proactive role in managing idling times will go a long way to help increase savings at the pump.

How do companies know how much time their fleets spend idling?

Fleet management solutions provide detailed reports to pinpoint when trucks are unnecessarily idling, such as when drivers are:

- Warming up the engine longer than necessary
- Leaving the engine running during stops or deliveries
- Keeping the engine running in order to operate radios and equipment in the vehicle

#3: Better maintenance helps lower fuel costs.

Identifying when to perform maintenance can help keep your vehicles on the road longer.

Organizations can turn to a fleet management solution to easily set up preventive maintenance schedules. Fleet technology uses near real-time maintenance alerts to automate the process and provides route planning tools to help cover vehicles that are out for repair. Better maintenance helps lower fuel costs.

Important maintenance tips to help improve fuel economy:

- Maintain proper tire pressure
- Check tire wear and tear periodically
- Replace fuel filters at the proper intervals
- Keep all axles aligned to reduce rolling resistance
- Use recommended grades of motor oil

Keep vehicles in shape

Standard maintenance and tuning can improve a vehicle's gas mileage by 4%, while addressing a major maintenance issue can improve mileage by as much as 40%.[2]

#4: Improve navigation and delivery schedules.

Even in small fleets, a few extra miles here and there can really add up. A comprehensive fleet management solution can provide the tools needed to effectively identify and cut unnecessary miles.

Integrated commercial navigation can give drivers critical information to reduce mileage when in route, including:

- Near real-time road network updates, like closures due to weather
- Yard approaches and yard exits
- Configurable out of-corridor alerts
- Company-specific points of interest to support use of preferred fueling locations

Additionally, take the guesswork out of delivery scheduling with routing software that integrates seamlessly with other fleet management technologies. Set the best schedules and use optimized routes to reduce mileage, while taking into account key factors, including:

- Driver and vehicle availability
- Frequency of visits
- Customer requests and SLAs
- Loading and unloading

Optimized navigation and delivery schedules can lead to fewer miles driven, lower fuel consumption, reduced vehicle maintenance and fewer overtime hours.

#5: Reduce fuel slippage.

Fuel theft and unauthorized fuel purchases could be hurting your business more than you realize.

A built-in fuel efficiency module that can monitor each vehicle's fuel usage, fuel economy and mileage can help detect any abnormalities when compared against vehicle averages. In addition to tracking fuel usage, fuel card integration can help with cost reconciliation.

Integrating your fuel card with your telematics solution also makes it easy to identify fraudulent card use by comparing fuel card use to the actual location of the vehicle. Identify fuel card abuse by reviewing instances where your vehicle was not present at the fueling station when the assigned fuel card was used or when the driver purchased more fuel than the vehicle's tank can hold.

According to the 2026 Fleet Technology Trends Report, organizations using fleet management technology see a 12% decrease, on average, in fuel costs.[3]

Fleet technology can help reduce fuel costs.

These fuel savers can help companies be on their way to achieving better fuel economy. Using an advanced fleet management solution can help decrease speeding and idling, and improve maintenance and delivery schedules.

Visit verizonconnect.com or call 866-844-2235 to learn more.

1 FuelEconomy.gov, Driving More Efficiently. https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.jsp
2 FuelEconomy.gov, Keeping Your Vehicle in Shape. https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/maintain.jsp
3 2026 Fleet Technology Trends Report. https://www.verizonconnect.com/resources/ebook/fleet-technology-trends-report/

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