

Managing Fuel Costs

Best practice and advice from FTA



Train your drivers and plan your routes
Select and maintain your fleet for fuel efficiency
Monitor fuel usage and the price you pay

Delivering safe, efficient, sustainable logistics

Introduction

This guide sets out best practices for maintaining a high level of fuel cost efficiency, how FTA is working to reduce the tax burden on members' behalf through its lobbying activity and also provides an access point for FTA information sources and business services.



How FTA is supporting you

FTA is a founding and major member of the FairFuelUK campaign tackling the significant threat posed to our members by high and still rising fuel costs. With fuel duty significantly higher in the UK than other EU countries, FTA has been at the forefront of the industry coming together to tackle this major burden on logistics.

Here are just some of the ways we've represented your interests to Government.

- We are at the heart of FairFuelUK, the nationally recognised award winning campaign fighting for lower fuel prices, which is widely accredited with stopping £5 billion of fuel duty increases being levied on businesses and the public in 2011 and 2012
- Regular meetings with ministers and politicians ensuring the issues of the industry are recognised by all
- Parliamentary candidate/MP site visits are arranged to demonstrate the front line view of logistics operations
- FTA submits a view on the Budget to set the industries position on the country's finances



Best practice

Our best practice offers simple ways to manage your fuel costs. By following these tips in conjunction with our extensive range of products and services, FTA can help you achieve and maintain greater fuel efficiency.

The choices you make on the selection, condition and maintenance of your fleet will also affect your miles per gallon and ultimately the volume of fuel you use.

- Are the tyres in good condition and are the tyre pressures correct?
- Don't overfill the fuel tank; excess fuel can overflow and escape via the fuel vent
- How is your vehicle loaded? Is it too high, correctly positioned, are empty tippers sheeted and are curtain straps tight?
- Is your vehicle aerodynamic; is your air deflector at the correct angle?
- Consider lightweight body materials, giving you extra payload as well as reducing fuel usage on part loaded/empty running



FTA solutions

Auditing and vehicle inspections

Regular independent inspections of vehicles looking at safety and condition. Monitoring factors affecting fuel consumption and highlighting aspects for correction include tyre defects, steering/suspension misalignment, binding brakes, exhaust smoke, fuel leaks.

For more information

Call: FTA's Member Service Centre on 08717 11 22 22*

Email: auditfta@fta.co.uk

Visit: www.fta.co.uk/audit

Tip 2: Reduce the fuel price you pay

Consider splitting your fuel supply between contract and spot purchases. For example, if prices are falling, the ability to purchase on a spot basis can yield a better price than sticking to a contract. However, in a period of sustained price increases contract purchase, such as fuel cards and bunkering, could be more competitive.

Use services available to monitor 'best pricing' and communicate this with your drivers on a weekly basis, advising where and how to purchase during that particular week.



FTA solutions

Fuel card

FTA has joined forces with RHA to enable members to benefit from extensive cost savings through discounted fuel prices and interest free credit. To find out more or apply, visit www.ftafuel.co.uk or call 0845 270 1612.

Shopfta

Shopfta is a one-stop-shop for all your transport consumables and offers a wide range of regularly updated products for sale online or by phone. Our extensive range includes many products to aid you with fuel, including anti-siphon devices.

Tip 3: Monitor your fuel usage



Ensure that your fuel drawing arrangements are properly controlled and policed.

All drawings should be recorded along with the vehicle odometer reading. Management systems should be in place to ensure records of fuel used are consistent with vehicle activity.

Appoint a fuel champion, giving them specific responsibility for monitoring usage, price and efficiency.

Work out how much fuel you use in a year. Is it going up or down? How much do you spend on fuel a year? How much would a one per cent reduction in fuel usage save you?

Daily bulk fuel prices and fuel cost calculator

www.fta.co.uk/fuel

Cost information service

www.fta.co.uk/costinformation

Fuel management audit and advisory service

For more information

Call: FTA's Member Service Centre on 08717 11 22 22*

Email: consultancy@fta.co.uk

Visit: www.fta.co.uk/consultancy

Tip 4: Journey planning

Your chosen route may have a great impact on your fuel efficiency. Both hilly and congested routes will decrease your miles per gallon (mpg). Driving during adverse weather will also decrease your mpg due to extra use of lights, heating and demisting.

- Look for routes that avoid heavy congestion
- Could you combine two half loaded routes into one?
- Optimise the use of dual carriageways and motorways



FTA solutions

Routeing and scheduling review and optimisation service

A review of your delivery schedules with advice on optimising mileage, fuel consumption and delivery timings.

For more information

Call: FTA's Member Service Centre on 08717 11 22 22*

Email: consultancy@fta.co.uk

Visit: www.fta.co.uk/consultancy



Fuel efficient driving has been proven to reduce consumption by up to 15 per cent.

- Know your average mpg
- Keep revs in the green band
- Regularly refresh your driver training to keep fuel efficiency front of mind
- Avoid speeding; are your vehicles fitted with speed limiters?
- Ensure your drivers are completing driver walk around checks
- Excessive braking and gear changes can cost you fuel, so remind drivers to read the road ahead to keep moving
- If they have cruise control, tell them to use it!
- Avoid unnecessary idle time, drivers shouldn't start the engine until ready to move off

FTA solutions

Training

With over 40 years' experience in professional training our courses include:

- Managing logistics business costs
- Managing distribution costs
- Safe and fuel efficient driving
- Driving values

For more information

Call: FTA's Member Service Centre on 08717 11 22 22*

Email: training@fta.co.uk

Visit: www.fta.co.uk/training

Shopfta

Shopfta is a one-stop-shop for all your transport consumables and offers a wide range of regularly updated products for sale online or by phone. Our extensive range includes many products to support your drivers from simple driver information cards, a fuel efficiency poster and a drivers' handbook.

If you are not already an FTA member, contact us today to find out how we can support your logistics operation; by saving you money, increasing your efficiency and shaping the industry.

Call our Member Service Centre today on

08717 11 22 22*

or go online at

www.fta.co.uk

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