



WHITEPAPER

Improving Fleet Fuel Efficiency Through Idle Reduction



Any effort, big or small, can contribute to more widespread change throughout your fleet operations and fuel consumption at large.

An Investment That Pays for Itself

More and more fleets are turning to idle reduction technologies to help with fuel efficiency and cost savings. These devices are installed into each vehicle and keep monitor, manage, and track engine usage. IRT's can be programmed to turn the engine off after a specific period of idling, ridding your fleet of fuel waste and cost implication.

This is a great way to reduce idling, especially among drivers who forget to turn off the engine or assume that they'll only be stopped for a short while. The thing is, every bit counts, and if more vehicles cut down on their idle time, the cost savings would be notable.

For example, a typical police patrol vehicle will idle 70-80% of its shifts on average. In conservative, back-to-back 10-hour shifts scenario, that's approximately 14-16 hours of idling each day. In a standard Police Interceptor, consuming 0.45 gal. of fuel at idle per hour, that 14-16 hours of idle time equates to approximately 6.3-7.2 gal. of fuel wasted every day. With a standard cost of gasoline at approximately \$2.15/gal., that equates to \$13.55-\$15.48. Given the nature of the industry, let's assume these vehicles are in operation for approximately 300 days of the year, that equates to approximately \$4,065-\$4,644 in wasted fuel every year just for one, single police vehicle.





Fewer Miles, Greater Fuel Efficiency

Another way that companies are saving on transportation costs is by adopting better fleet management practices. One of the ways they're doing this is by tracking vehicle routes and finding alternatives that reach the destination in fewer miles. The less mileage, the greater the fuel savings, and that means reduced costs.

Moreover, it's a good idea to look at each fleet and determine if any vehicles are making similar trips. Perhaps there is a way to lump those trips together, so they're taken by only one truck. That will take a vehicle off the road and cut your emissions and fuel consumption. If there is a way to schedule trips so that there is less idling, that could help too.

Simple Changes Add up

When it comes to idle reduction, it helps to be inventive and to get everyone involved. Plus, if drivers understand the potential cost reduction and fuel savings, they may be more likely to hop on board with new policies and practices. This could include using technology, as well as employing better driving habits while on the road – or a highly-effective combination of the two.

For instance, drivers can cut down on fuel usage by paying attention to their acceleration and braking. If they're constantly starting and stopping, they're using more fuel than is necessary. Also, driving above the speed limit—even just a bit—can waste fuel. These habits can be hard to break, which is why technology can be a huge help.

Be Mindful of the Weather

Cranking up the air conditioning in the summer and driving with low tire pressure in the winter puts added strain on your vehicles and hampers your fuel-efficiency efforts. Fleet managers should make sure that their drivers are aware of the impacts of excessive A/C use – and if this isn't an option, fleet managers should opt for A/C solutions that can be combined with idle reduction technologies. Fleet operators should also be encouraged to check on their tire pressure regularly. This will keep their vehicles operating at prime efficiency while minimizing costs for maintenance, repairs, and fuel consumption.

As you can see, reducing idling and fuel usage doesn't have to be a grand, expensive scheme. Sometimes the combination of technology and simple behavioral changes is the best way to go.





Optimizing Fleet Performance

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