

Keeping fuel costs under control

Three steps to minimising fuel expenditure and saving money.

In the last 10 years fuel pump prices have shot up and fuel costs can easily account for up to 25% of a fleet's operating costs – even for an SME with just a few cars. The fuel budget is therefore a key priority for every business to manage closely.

The good news is that it's possible to take proactive steps to improve fuel economy and save money. Vehicle selection is clearly important, however what about the cars already on the road? There are three areas that every business should consider...

Firstly, rather than simply allowing drivers to submit fuel expense claims, many small businesses have found that the combination of telematics to monitor actual miles travelled and a fuel card to purchase fuel is a better solution.

“Bringing telematics into play gives you a quick and simple way to capture miles travelled accurately.”

Fuel cards help to reduce fuel administration and accounting costs and give tighter monitoring and control of expenditure. Most offer reporting options as standard, making it easier to keep track of who's spent what. It also enables you to control where drivers are buying fuel – as outlet prices can vary significantly.

And bringing telematics into play gives you a quick and simple way to capture miles travelled accurately. Claims accuracy is vital as incorrect records put your business at risk of an investigation and can ultimately be viewed as fraud by HMRC. Even simple human error can result in inflated mileage claims that soon add up. Telematics takes away the guesswork and removes the chance of mistakes occurring.

The second key area is to consider how your vehicles are being driven. We all know that fast driving, heavy acceleration and over-revving reduces fuel



economy. Harsh braking is also a waste of fuel; so too is needless vehicle idling. Telematics can help again as it's not just a mileage capture tool, it can also be used to alert you to potentially costly driving behaviour.

“With very little effort drivers can easily cut fuel bills by 5-10%”

Perhaps you don't have the time and resources to assess individual driver data? One interesting fact is that even where driving behaviour is not necessarily specifically reviewed, once telematics has been adopted, most employees naturally opt to drive more



responsibly. Independent research supports this, highlighting that drivers will often change behaviour on their own.

You can also help your drivers to adopt better driving habits – which brings us on to the third area for consideration: driver training. With very little effort drivers can easily cut fuel bills by 5-10%. Many drivers have never had targeted training and may welcome the opportunity to learn how to improve their driving style as it not only benefits the business purse, it makes a difference to their personal safety too.

Clearly you don't need to simply put up with high fuel bills. Put measures in place to monitor fuel use and costs so you can see how well you're doing and if there are any issues to address. If you want to go one step further, you could even invest in the most recent telematics technology which can help you monitor fuel consumption and real MPG. However you choose to achieve greater transparency, it's only once you have effective monitoring in place that you'll be able to regain control of your fuel budget.

If you would like to find out more about what Lombard Vehicle Solutions could do for you, or would like to see our vehicle special offers, please click [here](#).

Security may be required. Product fees may apply.