

# The Five Best Ways to Reduce Fuel Costs

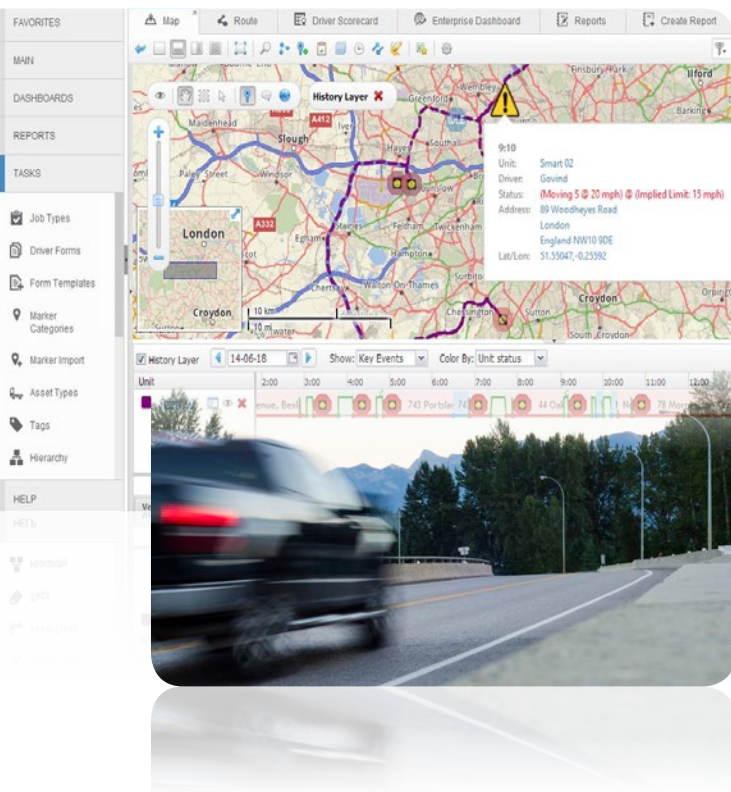
# Executive Summary

Fuel prices are expected to hold steady in 2014, but the need for businesses to stay competitive while keeping operating costs down remains strong. Since fuel is the largest fleet operating expense, efficient fuel utilisation is essential. Companies that have the most efficient utilisation are relying on location intelligence technologies to provide visibility into **five key areas that make a huge difference in reducing fuel costs:** excessive speeding, idling, vehicle maintenance, delivery schedules, and fuel slippage.



# 1. Reduce Excessive Speeding

The fastest way for companies to save money at the pump is to reduce excessive speeding. According to the The Freight Transport Association a 5% reduction in fuel consumption can be achieved simply by reducing your speed from 56 to 50 mph. So how do companies know if their fleets have an excess speeding problem? And if it does, what can companies do to reduce excess speeding to increase fuel economy?



To identify where excess speeding is a problem, use location intelligence to detect and record vehicle speeds and compare them against posted speed limits. If an issue is identified, here are some recommendations to curb excess speeding with teams in the field:

- Set speed limits on roads and motorways 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 MPG
- Reward and commend drivers who stay within speed range

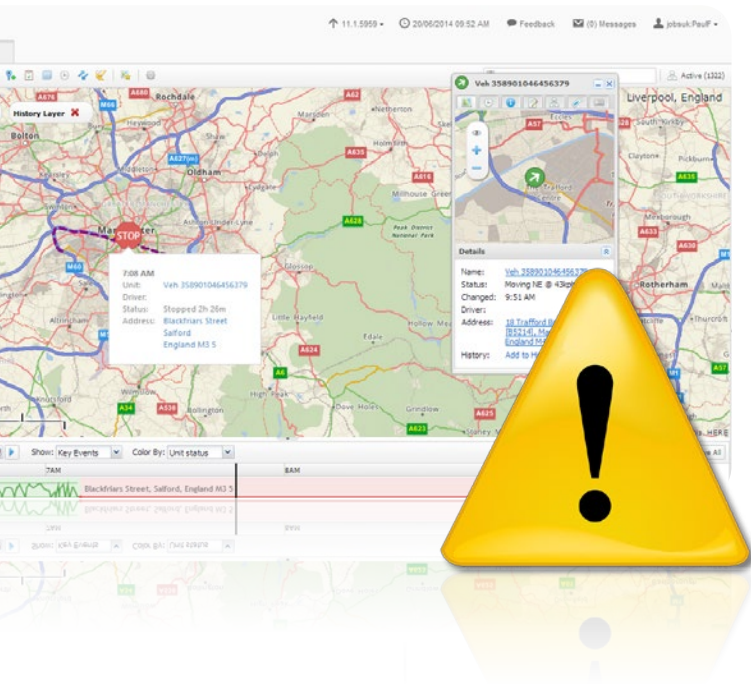
Find a solution that not only offers customisable reports and dashboards that provide insights to how teams are performing behind the wheel, but also includes customisable alerts that allow thresholds to be set to on a driver's speed when driving over or under the posted speed limit. Speed limits are updated often; make sure the solution you select allows you to make edits to ensure data accuracy in reporting. In-cab coaching and alerts are also great tools to curb excessive speeding in real time. Coupled with a driver scorecard that ranks and normalises driver behavior; get a full view of your fleet's driver behaviour and see how drivers compare with each other.

## 2. Keep Fuel Savings from Idling

According to the Driving for better Business report, two minutes idling uses the same amount of fuel as that required to drive one mile.

How do companies know how much time their fleets spend idling? Is there a straightforward way to identify where excessive idling is taking place? Location-based software solutions provide detailed reports to pinpoint when trucks are unnecessarily idling and include:

- 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



In the same way speeds can be monitored, location-based software solutions identify where excessive idling is an issue and allow operations leads to set rules to bring it under control. For example, limit idle time and set alerts for idle time above a set time period. Always coach drivers on best practices and reward drivers who show improvement in their idle times with tools such as in-cab alerting and driver scorecards. Not all idle behaviours are made the same, the solution you select should understand productive vs. non-productive idle. Taking a proactive role in managing idle time will go a long way to help increase savings at the pump.

# 3. Better Maintenance = Lower Fuel Bill

Fleetnews.co.uk highlight that unplanned maintenance work, that puts a vehicle off the road can cost a business between £1500 - £3000 per day. Proper maintenance is also important in the fuel economy equation. This again will multiply with the savings per gallon across the entire fleet. Here are some important maintenance areas to remember with regard to fuel economy:

- Maintain proper tyre inflation pressure; check tyre wear
- Replace fuel filters at the proper intervals
- Keep all axles aligned to minimise rolling resistance
- Repair vehicle body damage
- Use recommended grades of motor oil



To ensure vehicles are operating optimally at all times, it can help to identify the precise best time to perform maintenance. How do companies establish sufficient notice of upcoming preventive maintenance service so it can be scheduled without disruption to their workflows? An integrated location intelligence platform can help automate these processes with real-time maintenance alerts on vehicles and with route planning tools that adjust routes seamlessly to make up for vehicles out for maintenance or repair.

Type	Name
Ignition	Start Route - London
Idle	Idle Time >15
Switch Diagnostic	MIL Lamp
Maintenance	Oil Change
Marker	Marker at ESPO
Speeding Against Speed Limit	Posted Speed Limit
In Marker Category	Customer Stop >15 Min
Gauge Diagnostic	Harsh Acceleration
Maintenance	Six Week Check
Maintenance	Six Week Check - Isuzu GN1...
Driver Not Assigned	Moving - no driver login
Gauge Diagnostic	Harsh Braking
Driver Not Assigned	Moving - no driver login
Maintenance	Six Week Check - Isuzu GN1...
Maintenance	Six Week Check
Gauge Diagnostic	Harsh Acceleration
Driver Not Assigned	Moving - no driver login

## 4. Improve Navigation and Delivery Schedules

The most expensive mile you'll ever drive is the one you didn't need to. According to the RHA Goods Vehicle Operation Costs Report 2014, the average operating cost is £0.52 per mile. If the average number of miles driven each year is 100,000 per vehicle and 10 percent of that is out of route miles (OOR miles), companies could save £5,200 per vehicle, per year just by effectively and efficiently cutting OOR miles.

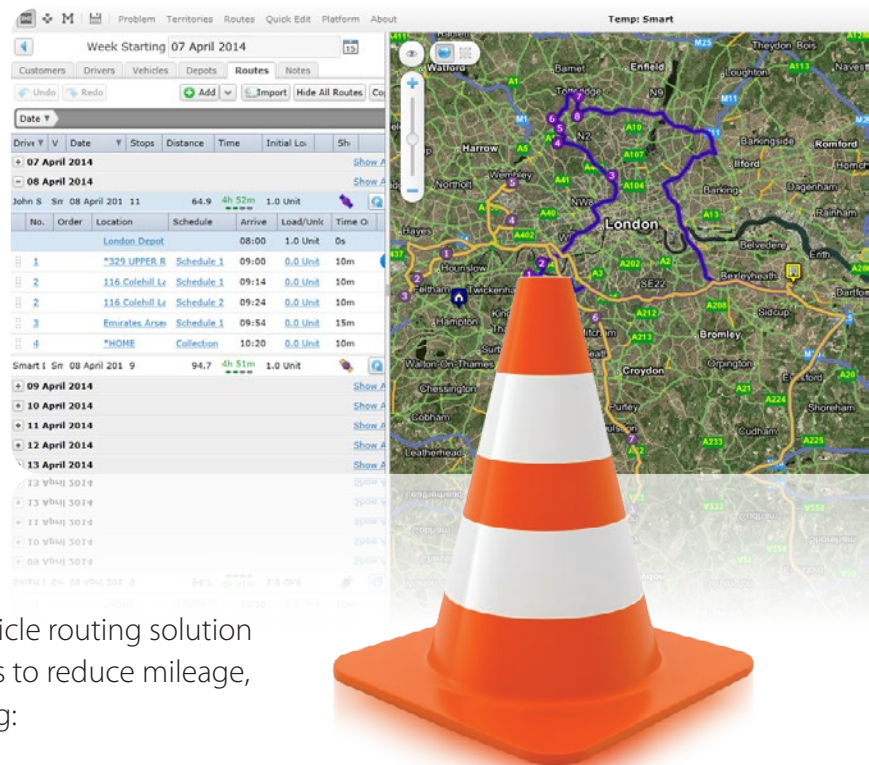
Implementing an integrated location intelligence platform can provide the tools needed to optimise mileage and dramatically cut OOR miles. Solutions for improving navigation and delivery schedules can make a huge difference here. A sophisticated navigation tool can give drivers critical information to reduce mileage when in route, including:

- Real time network updates (storm/weather closures)
- Yard approaches and yard exits
- Configurable Out of Corridor alerting
- Company specific points of interest to support use of preferred fuelling locations

Additionally, take the guesswork out of delivery scheduling with routing software that integrates seamlessly with other location intelligence technologies like telematics. A web-based multi-vehicle routing solution helps to set the best schedules and optimised routes to reduce mileage, while taking into account some key factors, including:

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

Optimised navigation and delivery schedules mean not only fewer miles driven and lower fuel consumption but also less vehicle maintenance and overtime for teams.



# 5. Fuel Slippage

Is your fleet at risk of fuel theft that you might be unaware of? Unfortunately, as the price of oil increases, there is an increasing chance that your fleet could be at risk from fuel theft. Fuel theft and unauthorised fuel purchases could be hurting your business more than you realise.



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 fuelling station when the assigned fuel card was used or when the driver purchased more fuel than the vehicle’s tank can actually hold.

**Fuel Card Match Summary**

1/19/2014 12:00 AM to 1/26/2014 12:00 AM

Driver	Total Un-Matched Purchases	Total Matched Purchases	Total Purchases	Match %
10000	2	2	4	50 %
10001	0	3	3	100 %
10002	2	0	2	0 %
10003	1	0	1	0 %
10004	3	1	4	25 %
10005	0	3	3	100 %
10006	1	0	1	0 %
10007	1	0	1	0 %
10008	1	0	1	0 %
10009	1	0	1	0 %
10002	0	3	3	100 %
10004	3	1	4	25 %
10003	1	0	1	0 %

# Conclusion

Utilise these fuel savers and companies can be well on their way to achieving better fuel economy. By using an advanced location intelligence solution to help decrease speeding and idling and improving maintenance and delivery schedules, companies can save up to 10-15 percent on annual fuel costs.



## About Telogis

Telogis provides a cloud-based location intelligence platform for companies that require route optimisation, real-time work order management, commercial navigation, telematics and mobile integration services for their mobile workforces.

Telogis is dedicated to enhancing the value of its customers' businesses through intelligent integration of location technology, information and services. Telogis was established in 2001 and is headquartered in Aliso Viejo, California, with offices in Europe and Latin America as well as development centers in Austin, Texas; Toronto; and Christchurch, New Zealand. Telogis' products and services are used and distributed in more than 100 countries worldwide. To learn more about Telogis, visit [www.telogis.co.uk](http://www.telogis.co.uk) or call: +44 (0) 203 005 8805.