

INCRECIBLE FUEL SAVINGS AND IMPRESSIVE REDUCTION IN CO₂ EMISSIONS

Rodney Thornton, Fleet and Waste Manager,
West Dunbartonshire Council



VOICE OF THE CUSTOMER

Fleet of 380 vehicles
worth £8m

The Organisation

Connecting the shores of Loch Lomond with Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire provides access to some of Scotland's most beautiful scenery and a network of towns and villages. There are three town centres; Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria. The council has a fleet of 380 vehicles that are used in delivering services for the residents of West Dunbartonshire. This fleet is made up of cars, vans and minibuses as well as specialist vehicles such as refuse collection trucks and road sweepers. The fleet has a capital value of approximately £8 million and annual running and operating costs of over £2M.

Reduction of council
costs is fundamental

The Challenge

Running vehicle fleets does not only incur costs - as a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, the council has a carbon reduction commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions by one third by 2015. The cost of fuel to the council has increased significantly over recent years and it is clear that the council needs controlling mechanisms to regulate and influence the sustainable use of fuel. Added to this, there was concern over the usage of council vehicles and the need to know where and how council property was being used. With a highly recognisable fully branded fleet, West Dunbartonshire are aware that they are continuously visible and that tax payers note any inappropriate use. Coupled with this comes the incidence of public challenges and spurious insurance claims against the council. Tracking of the vehicles was becoming necessary to cut rising costs, raise efficiency and save time on administration.



VOICE OF THE CUSTOMER

Marked improvement
in driver behaviour

The Solution

In March 2010 the council installed LINK GPS tracking boxes from Webfleet Solutions into 260 of their fleet of vehicles. This was a significant investment for the council, particularly at a time when budgets were being trimmed in every area. Nevertheless the Fleet and Waste Services Division led by Rodney Thornton, was confident that its introduction would reduce fuel costs. Following research and a competitive tendering exercise, the council selected Webfleet Solutions to provide the solution.

Driving more economically, efficiently, and safely, will reduce the council's carbon footprint and longer term costs for the council. It was clear that many drivers, however unwittingly, were wasting valuable resources because of the way they drive. Reducing average speed and instances of harsh braking and cornering delivers direct, measurable reductions in fuel consumption, servicing and maintenance costs and is proven to reduce accidents.

70,000 litres of fuel saved

As a result of improved control of the vehicle fleet, the council is projecting that fuel usage will be down by around 70,000 litres in the period April 2010 - March 2011 when compared to the previous year. Ultimately, the council has not only saved huge costs, they have succeeded in reducing their annual climate impact.

"Improvements to the way council vehicle operators carry out their duties has reduced our annual fuel costs by over £100,000 per annum, reduced servicing and maintenance costs in the longer term, will extend the working life of a number of vehicles and decrease the production of CO₂," said Rodney Thornton.

West Dunbartonshire council are so impressed with the results of WEBFLEET, they are incorporating the Webfleet Solutions ecoPLUS into a selection of the vehicles across the fleet. The ecoPLUS provides businesses with live data such as fuel consumption and live carbon footprint so vehicles can be accurately benchmarked and best practice developed to help achieve wider objectives such as fuel saving and carbon footprint reduction.

Webfleet Solutions ecoPLUS will enable the council to further reduce fuel consumption, by gaining a real time view of the fuel efficiency of each vehicle, showing when and where fuel is wasted. Idling time in particular has been highlighted as a major contributor to fuel wastage in this sector.