



Pertemps Ltd : Green fleet review

The review was carried out in November 2004 by Fleet Audits Ltd on behalf of the Energy Saving Trust and produced some real benefits for Pertemps.

Pertemps is a major company operating in the personnel recruitment market. The group has over 200 offices and more than 90 separate companies. At the time of the review the company's vehicle fleet was a mixture of cars given to enhance terms of employment and those needed for the job. The majority of the vehicles were leased and most employees were not able to choose their car type. Vehicles were allocated according to the job grade and/or the business need. The review found that cleaner diesel technology (Euro IV), for the type of journeys employees made was the most environmentally efficient fuel choice for the company. This was because of diesel's low carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and fuel consumption.

Employees had been reimbursed for their business mileage via the Inland Revenue's approved fuel reimbursement rates. Pertemp's Fleet Manager, Adrian Harris, identified the potential for significant cost savings and environmental benefits by changing to a system of "payment for actual private fuel used". It led to the introduction of company fuel cards and the inhouse creation of computer software to record and monitor all mileage and fuel transactions. This allows the company to charge employees for their percentage of private mileage in relation to the actual cost of fuel purchased. It means employees pay for the fuel they actually use. It also helps ensure they purchase cheaper fuel and drive more efficiently. This is because employees are paying part of the cost of all the fuel they use. The Mileage Input Data Acquisition System (MIDAS) system introduced by the company gives detailed reporting on vehicle fuel efficiency. By comparing individual employees fuel consumption with the manufacturer's official miles per gallon (MPG) figures it is possible to assess their driving behaviour. In addition with a large number of similar cars in the fleet, it is easy to make comparisons of operational efficiency.

Pertemps also targeted key employees for driver training. The company found practical training to be the most effective method. Drivers targeted for training were primarily young or inexperienced, those with over six points on their licence or those with a poor accident record. The company car policy has also been extensively re-written.

It now includes sections on fuel efficient driving and how to*minimise the effects of car travel on the environment.

A number of new ways of working have been introduced to try to reduce car journeys. These include remotely networked laptops for managers and telephone conferencing. These have led to reduced mileage. Video conferencing has also been installed.

Achievements:

Following the check the fleet is now over 95% diesel. The only petrol cars in the fleet are ultra efficient vehicles such as the Audi FSI.

With a fleet of 300 cars each covering 10,000 miles per annum, a saving of £90,000 per annum in fuel costs alone was possible, by using the MIDAS system. With the increased driver awareness of costs and fuel efficiency an additional £12,000 or 5 per cent saving was also possible.

The feedback from the training was very positive and to date there have been no cases of re-offending with those drivers who have completed the training course. The consequent reduction in accidents should also lead to savings on vehicle maintenance costs. The investment they have made will more than pay for itself in the future and has established the company's environmental credentials.

Source : Energy Saving Trust