



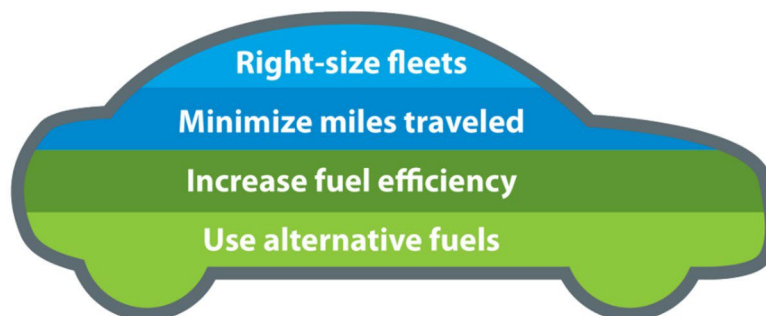
*Greater efficiency supports patient care.*

## Sustainable Fleets

*All ECM content was independently developed and reviewed to be vendor, product and service provider neutral.*

### **Description**

Best practices for right-sizing, optimizing vehicle miles traveled, increasing fuel efficiency and evaluating emerging fleet technology. A systematic approach to fleet management will lead to budget stability in an environment with rising fuel prices and volatility in the global supply chain.



[Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#)

### **Project Talking Points**

- The travel needs and patterns of travel for clinical staff, nonclinical staff and patients have changed as a result of the pandemic.
- Fleet management will need to change to reflect the increased adoption of telemedicine and distributed models for delivery of care.
- Innovation in the automotive industry is leading to faster adoption of electric vehicles.
- Increased prevalence of electric vehicles will require changes to the electrical and parking design of facilities.
- Organizations will need to set baselines, goals and strategies to reduce vehicles, miles driven and costs.

## **Benefits**

- **Cost benefits:** Right-sizing, optimizing mileage, increasing fuel efficiency and adopting new technology can lead to lower fixed and variable operating costs. Tracking vehicle utilization can identify total cost of ownership and help identify opportunities for further optimization.
- **Environmental benefits:** Right-sizing, optimizing mileage, increasing fuel efficiency and adoption of new technology can lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Tracking vehicle utilization can identify total cost of ownership and help identify opportunities for further optimization.
- **Social benefits:** Developing a new fleet management program shows staff, patients and the public that you are committed to reducing your impact on the community's environment by operating more efficiently. Implementing a program like this improves your public image as a health care organization and, more importantly, it improves public health by reducing emissions.

## **Purchasing Considerations**

- The mix of owned, leased and contracted vehicles in the fleet should be evaluated to reflect any operational changes that have resulted from the pandemic.
- Pilot programs to validate assumptions about changes to vehicle fleets are recommended due to the rapid changes in technology and offerings by different automotive manufacturers.
- Implementing changes to the vehicle fleet and the long-term cost savings associated with these changes are an opportunity to educate staff, patients and community members of sustainability efforts.

## **How-To**

1. Determine which department or team is going to handle overall fleet management, including owned, leased and contracted vehicles. This includes ambulances, courier cars, supply trucks and vans, home health care vehicles, maintenance vehicles and shuttle buses. Appropriate departments include environmental services, purchasing, or facility management.
2. Gain leadership commitment to a sustainable fleet management program with leaders who can collaborate with your designated team.
3. Inventory all vehicles currently in the fleet, including age, maintenance history and utilization.
4. Analyze current fleet size and makeup compared to the current sustainability requirements of the organization.

5. Identify opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled or avoid unnecessary travel, including:
  - Using mass transportation – public transportation can supplement the capacity of the organization’s fleet.
  - Improving scheduling and routing – utilizing GPS technology and telematics can improve routing and efficiency of fleet vehicles.
  - Implementing on-demand transportation – using demand response systems to offer shuttles, busses and car sharing to visitors and employees.
  - Eliminating trips – using telemedicine, virtual meeting platforms and work from home to reduce demand for the fleet.
6. Increase the fuel efficiency of the fleet by:
  - Eliminating redundant capacity – focus on reducing owned and leased vehicles and utilize contracted vehicles or ride-sharing services for peak demand.
  - Acquiring fuel-efficient vehicles – deploy the smallest, most fuel-efficient vehicles appropriate for the need and operational budget of the organization.
  - Acquiring hybrid electric vehicles, budget permitting – hybrids typically do not require the infrastructure changes that electric vehicles (EVs) do and therefore are implemented more efficiently.
  - Acquiring EVs – due to rapid changes in the market and the necessity of infrastructure planning and changes, EVs should be piloted before fully deployed.
  - Maintaining vehicles to improve fuel efficiency – ensure that best practices such as scheduled maintenance and recommended tire pressure are monitored for all vehicles.
  - Avoiding excessive idling – implement best practices such as turning off engines when vehicles are idle or stationary to eliminate unnecessary fuel usage.
7. Monitor innovation in the automotive sector for new technologies or practices to incorporate into the organization’s fleet management strategy.
8. Develop goals for the fleet management program that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely.
9. Track your progress against a baseline to report on mileage and emission reductions.
10. Celebrate the success of your fleet management program and share results with staff and your community.

## **Energy Conservation Measures Synergies**

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Scope 1
- Sustainable Procurement
- Selecting the Right Sustainability KPIs

## **Resources**

- [Federal Energy Management Program: Best Practices](#)
- [IdleBox: A Toolkit for Idle Reduction Education and Outreach](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency SmartWay®](#)
- [U.S. Department of Energy: Tips for Hybrids, Plug-in Hybrids and EVs](#)
- [U.S. Department of Energy: Choosing a More Efficient Car](#)

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