

Manage your fleet's fuel efficiently

Tayside Fire and Rescue Service, based in Scotland, recently reviewed the fuel efficiency of its fleet with help from The Energy Savings Trust, a UK non-profit organisation, which provides a service to private and public organisations on how to reduce carbon offset.

Following the review, the brigade implemented initiatives in conjunction with Triscan Systems, a fuel management solutions provider.



Tayside covers an area of some 7,500 square kilometres with a fleet of 110 apparatus, and to meet its organisational objectives, the brigade is committed to the pursuit of best value and has already developed its Performance Management Framework for the organisation of the fire and rescue service. Dave Stapley, Manager for Technical Services for the Tayside Fire and Rescue Group believes in this management ethos. "We are committed to continuous improvement, and have implemented the performance management system to assist in our development of measurement processes. In addition, we have developed a suite of internal indicators to compare performance against predetermined targets for the purpose of benchmarking and measurement"

One of the key issues for the service is managing fuel, fleet and operational efficiency and the brigade fully realises that, with the exception of staff costs, the greatest overheads within the organisation is managing the vehicle fleet.

Fuel must be proactively managed to ensure that Tayside Fire and Rescue deliver an efficient public service. One of its four stated aims is to "Monitor performance to ensure continuous improvement and delivery of best value" and this statement backs up the recent investment in a fuel and vehicle monitoring solution. Monitoring stock levels, accounting for fuel usage and comparison between vehicles and sites were important elements of the project brief for the system. Crucially, this included the way in which information gets captured and reported upon. In terms of efficiency Tayside Fire and Rescue wanted to ensure that operational staff were not overburdened with administration in the collation and formatting of data. The solution provider Triscan Systems applied their Kisskey technology in the project in conjunction with its latest generation of reporting software – Odyssey. Dave Stapley continued, "Following

the Energy Saving Trust review, it was apparent that we required a more effective system to manage and account for our fuel usage. We chose Triscan because of their experience within other blue light and local government organisations and the benefits that the whole solution presented us." This included prevention of fuel fraud, reduction in administrative time and true management of fuel costs and most importantly, easily configured and tailored reports. In its endeavours to control costs, a point worth mentioning relates directly to Tayside Fire and Rescue's acceptance of their social responsibility to the environment. Clear and unambiguous access to reliable management information was key to this and this is where the Triscan solution delivered. Manual entry of mileage or vehicle information was not required as the "Clean Data" capture functionality did away with double or incorrect entry by drivers or operational staff. There was much potential to misreport or err when managing over 110 vehicles, of which 60 are low mpg fire appliances.

Tayside spent in the region of £180,000 per annum on fuel and Triscan enabled them to manage this budget and fuel usage more effectively through capturing data at source and importing the information into their fleet management system. Triscan's back office software accurately identifies inefficiencies and measure fuel consumption figures against Tayside's 24 sites and 110 vehicles.

Odyssey is the first of a new generation of scalable and modular fuel management software which – Triscan claims – will transform how fleet operators can view information and also configure their reporting requirements. Triscan continues to assist Tayside Fire and Rescue to address its fuel information requirements and in addition, it will continue to offer back up support and the use of training facilities to underline its commitments to Scotland's public bodies.

One of the main drivers behind taking on Triscan's fuel management system is Tayside's commitment to the environment.