

OVERCOMING ROADBLOCKS TO SAFER, LOW-EMISSION FLEET VEHICLES

Fleet administrators are facing increasing complexity in their roles due to a changing regulatory environment and the emergence of advanced technologies designed to lower vehicle emissions. Navigating new regulations and assessing innovative technologies require access to comprehensive and reliable information, which is often difficult to obtain.

A national survey reported that fleet administrators frequently find the data needed to justify the purchase of these new technologies to be hard to find, incomplete, and often confusing. This lack of accessible information makes it challenging to evaluate the benefits and costs associated with advanced fleet vehicle technologies. Consequently, when upgrading and replacing fleet vehicles, many administrators continue to favor petroleum-based technologies, where traditional metrics—such as initial cost, maintenance, reliability, and total cost of ownership—are well understood.

This preference for conventional technologies contributes to a slower transition away from fossil fuels. Based on current scientific consensus, a reduction of approximately 45% in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to today's levels, is necessary to limit global warming to 1.5°C. However, if the current percentage of zero-emission vehicle sales relative to petroleum-fueled vehicle sales remains constant, the estimated decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector by 2030 will be only around 3% compared to 2023 levels. This discrepancy underscores the urgency of accelerating the adoption of low-emission technologies within the transportation sector.

While technology offers solutions to these challenges, large-scale changes require substantial resources and coordinated efforts across multiple sectors. A practical step that all stakeholders can take is to collaborate to ensure that comprehensive and trusted data is available.

By working together to provide detailed information on government regulations, incentives, and the total cost of ownership of advanced fleet vehicle technologies, fleet administrators can make more informed purchasing decisions. Access to reliable data enables them to consider not only economic factors but also the social and environmental costs of their choices, providing crucial information to accelerate the shift toward lower-emission vehicles.

In response to the need for centralized information, a national survey indicated that fleet administrators requested a knowledge base where they could find all relevant data in one place. FleetWiki was developed for this purpose.

Like all knowledge bases, FleetWiki is user-supported and relies on individual research contributions from fleet professionals, suppliers, and Clean Cities coalitions. These contributions are vital for keeping the content current and accurate, thereby enabling a meaningful increase in the adoption of safer, lower-emission fleet technologies. By pooling resources and expertise, stakeholders can ensure the availability of trusted information, making it easier for fleet administrators to transition away from fossil fuels.