



Monitoring sustainability in your fleet

You need to know your starting point, what is happening right now, to have any chance of understanding emissions. Getting your data sorted early not only establishes a yardstick to compare future performance, it can help you understand where you can save money quickly.

Managing your emissions needs **energy data**, just like managing your budget needs financial data. The kind of data you need depends on your goals you set in Step 1. If your goal is to reduce fuel costs, you'll need fuel consumption data (e.g. L/km, L/tonne, L/t-km). If your goal is to buy electric trucks, you'll need to calculate Total Cost of Ownership to work out viability. Starting with your end goal in mind will ensure you target the right data sources from the start.

The information you collect should be reliable, accurate, and directly relevant to your business performance. The goal is to have **a consistent set of 'metrics'** or indicators you can use to track your progress over time (e.g. am I using less diesel per kilometre or tonne? Why/why not?).

Once you know what information you need, think about how you can get it. You're probably tracking some 'metrics' as part of normal operations, which can be repurposed to help measure general efficiency and productivity too.

Key questions to ask

- What data do we have right now?
- How can this be used to measure efficiency and productivity?
- Can we get more detailed data?
- What extra energy data do we need? Where can we get it?
- Who will be responsible for collecting it?
- How will we track it? How often?

Fuel cards

- price changes
- fuel consumption
- monthly/annual spend

Freight systems

- inventory
- stock quantities
- delivery delays

Telematics

- driving style
- idle time
- fuel efficiency

Maintenance records

- repairs
- parts
- downtime

Vehicle info

- odometer readings
- product specs
- OEM/dealer advice

Financials

- invoicing
- revenue per tonne-km
- profit margins

Most important is the data you have access to but aren't yet using. Stepping back to consider what other information might be available, and how you can record it meaningfully, is a no-regrets way to keep track of your efficiency and where you might be able to improve.

When it comes to sourcing data, the more detail the better. Breaking down your operations – particularly your fuel spend – will not only highlight where you are using the most energy but also where you can improve efficiency and cut emissions at the same time. For fleets, the goal should be to **measure data for each individual vehicle**. Telematics can often help with this and, for all but the oldest trucks, can simply be plugged into the existing diagnostic port.

TIP Use physical units (L, km, MJ, kWh) instead of dollars as pricing changes can easily hide efficiency improvements.

Next, you need to bring all this information together. This can be as simple as a data table or spreadsheet, or as high-tech as automated software. The most important thing is everyone knows who is responsible, what data to collect, and how/when it is recorded. Without a consistent approach from Day 1, information may get lost or you could end up collecting the wrong data!

Once you are recording how each individual vehicle is performing, you can start to **segment your fleet** by grouping similar vehicles and tasks (see example table below). Categorising your operations like this makes it easier to spot opportunities to cut costs and emissions across your fleet.

Example of how to 'segment' your fleet data

Duty cycle	Vehicles	L/100km	km/year	t CO ₂ e-/year
Vans				
Urban delivery	5	13.7	40,500	15.0
Regional freight	0	-	-	-
Line-haul	0	-	-	-
Rigid trucks				
Urban delivery	6	35.8	39,600	38.6
Regional freight	7	25.5	81,000	55.8
Line-haul	0	-	-	-
Semi-trailers				
Urban delivery	0	-	-	-
Regional freight	2	44.9	119,750	145.2
Line-haul	10	56.0	202,300	305.9

TIP 1L of diesel = about 2.7kg of CO₂ emissions

Finally, getting the most out of your data means **sticking with it**. Tracking data is an investment without an immediate payback, however odds are *inefficiency* is already costing you more than it should.

Effective measurement is only possible with a reliable stream of consistent data. Make data collection a **standard business practice** to unlock the opportunities to come in Steps 3 to 5.

Access all the resources here

