

Sustainability Working Group

Reduction of Fuel Use and CO2 Emissions

It is commonly accepted that consumption of fuel in vehicles and plant is responsible for the majority of CO2 emissions from highway maintenance operations; consequently reducing fuel consumption is a crucial element of climate change mitigation. The HTMA Sustainability Working Group has undertaken a benchmarking study to better understand fuel use in maintenance operations and the effectiveness of measures currently available to reduce fuel-related CO2 emissions. This will be an ongoing, annual exercise.

Having achieved benchmark values for fuel-related CO2, the second half of this project explored the ways in which member companies achieve their results and minimise emissions. A list of common methods to reduce fuel CO2 was compiled and members were asked to assess and score their Perception of the benefits for each method and then consider the Reality of what the method had delivered within their own organisation.

The exercise has raised key issues and challenges, both in terms of monitoring fuel use and reducing related CO2 emissions. The importance of the issue is now accepted and the 'drivers' are in place whether financial, legal or ethical; but it is certain that in the current market, solutions must be cost-effective and deliver value for money.

The next stage of this process is to explore in more detail the methods that have been used and been successful, review these with member companies to identify and share best practice.