



Re: Assessment of a Web-Based Fleet Management Tool for Reducing Fuel Consumption and GHG Emissions

The Clean Air Partnership (CAP), Bronson Consulting Group (Bronson) and New Brunswick Power have been engaged by Natural Resources Canada's ecoENERGY for Fleets Program to coordinate the assessment of a web-based fleet management tool to support commercial and institutional fleets in their efforts to reduce their fuel consumption and related GHG emissions.

The tool was developed by Bronson and is intended to:

- Calculate a baseline annual fuel consumption from existing vehicle fleet inventory;
- Ensure performance measurement by supporting yearly updating of annual fuel consumption statistics; and
- Provide tools for fleet managers and strategic planners to identify and analyse fuel efficiency opportunities and develop action plans for reducing fuel consumption in their organization.

The project will involve fleet managers from the member municipalities of GTA Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC, a CAP program) as well as from New Brunswick Power, who will be asked to play one or both of two roles:

- To participate in the project **Advisory Committee**; and/or
- To **test and document** their perceptions of the tool.

Fleet managers on the Advisory Committee will participate in four meetings between February 1st 2008 and March 31st 2009 and assist in:

- Identifying the best mechanisms for promoting the web-based tool to various municipal and utility fleet managers.
- Securing agreement of participation in piloting of web-based tool from municipal fleet managers.
- Providing feedback on the questionnaires to be used in obtaining feedback from municipal fleet managers participating in the pilot phase and for documenting Bronson's experience in using the fleet tool at NB Power.
- Reviewing and analysing comments received from municipal fleet managers participating in pilot phase and from Bronson's documented experience in using the fleet tool at NB Power.
- Making recommendations for updates or changes to the web-based tool, if necessary.
- Determining which specific examples and best practices in the use of the web-based tool, as experienced by municipal fleet managers participating in the pilot phase and by Bronson at NB Power, should be included and reported in the case studies.

Fleet managers testing the tool will receive one day of training from Bronson and will be able to access technical support from CAP throughout the test phase, which is expected to run between April 1st 2008 and December 31st 2008. Throughout the duration of the pilot project, CAP will collect feedback from participating fleet managers on the functionality of the tool. The assignment for fleet managers testing the tool would include the following four steps:

1. Establishing current fuel consumption, cost and GHG emissions for fleet – the tool automatically calculates total fuel consumption, cost and GHG emissions, once the following fleet inventory data is entered in the tool:
 - ✓ Vehicle type and model year;
 - ✓ Average annual distance travelled;
 - ✓ City and highway driving ratios and percent of operating time spent idling; and
 - ✓ Fuel type and actual fuel consumption (if known).
2. Reviewing various fuel scenarios for fuel consumption reduction - reviewing and experimenting with proposed fleet efficiency measures contained within the tool to calculate potential fuel and cost savings. The following lists examples of the fleet efficiency measures found within the tool:
 - ✓ Aerodynamics of heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles;
 - ✓ Air-conditioners, block heaters, tires and other vehicle components;
 - ✓ Driver behaviour, including use of cruise control, aggressive driving, and idling;
 - ✓ Fleet management, such as driver training and purchasing decisions;
 - ✓ Use of alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles; and
 - ✓ Vehicle maintenance, including oils and lubricants and tires.
3. Developing an action plan by selecting specific fleet efficiency measures to implement.
4. Reviewing results – After a certain period has lapsed, updating the fleet action plan by indicating the status of each action and calculating the change in fuel consumption, costs and GHG emissions.

Final project deliverables will include:

- A report describing the results of the pilot project, including a compilation of all comments received from participants about their experience with the tool, and making recommendations for updates or changes, if necessary; and
- Two case studies (one from a GTA-CAC municipality, the other from NB Power) detailing how the web-based tool has assisted in developing a fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions reductions action plan or enhancing an already existing one.

If you would like to know more about the project or are interested in participating, please contact Michael Canzi, Associate Director of Research at the Clean Air Partnership. Michael can be reached by e-mail at mcanzi@cleanairpartnership.org, or by telephone at 416-393-6359.