

CURE EV RANGE ANXIETY WITH DYNAMIC FLEET SCHEDULING AND ROUTING

With an increasing number of all-electric field service fleets, the demand for EV charging points remains high. With a focus on the consumer market, retailers and housebuilders are driving the roll-out effort. Last year the UK's EV charging points numbered around 42,000. However, outside of major hubs, fleets find long waits, high prices, and even 'charging deserts'. Dynamic fleet scheduling and rules-based routing is your solution to range anxiety and supports your move to green fleets.

Choosing the right vehicles for your fleet means balancing cost, reliability, and suitability for the tasks required – all with an eye to minimise downtime. Fuel management and route planning then crosses between fleet managers and dispatchers. Whilst strategies to monitor and reduce fuel use (such as enforcing speed limits and promoting efficient driving techniques) are firmly rooted in traditionally fuelled fleets, moving to all-electric is no different.

Range anxiety is the fear that an electric vehicle (EV) may run out of power before reaching a destination or a charging station. EVs have a limited range and can only travel a certain distance on a single charge (on average 200-300 miles). 'Charging deserts' don't respect your dispatch requirements, and fleets now face new operational pressure. Field service operators may avoid taking long trips or refuse to service geographic areas where there are no charging stations. Operatives may avoid an EV's features, such as air conditioning or heating, or limit the use of vehicle-powered equipment, such as air compressors or welding tools.

The solution: Combined scheduling and tour planning for EV fleets

Simple route planning from A to B cannot account for rules and restrictions, such as vehicle weight, actual time-of-day driving speeds, and critically, charge range. The solution is a dynamic scheduling platform that calculates appointments and their geocoded routes into optimised tour planning.

With 10 jobs and one vehicle, there are over 3.6 million possibilities for routing. A professional fleet tour planning system, such as FLS VISITOUR, uses a high-performance algorithm to produce an efficient fleet plan in a matter of seconds. It will consider all specified restrictions.

Therefore, real-time fleet scheduling groups jobs into vehicle tours and determines the optimal order in which they should be completed.

How does routing for EV fleets work?

A dispatch manager receives a job ticket. FLS VISITOUR identifies the geocoded location, operative skills and spare parts, with availability (plus any company SLAs). With an EV range restriction, break times to visit charging points are embedded. The system will then produce narrow, cost-optimised appointment options with their routing.

Real-time also means saying goodbye to batch (or overnight) processing of jobs. With Webfleet EV fleet management and FLS VISITOUR, if jobs overrun, a field operative becomes unwell, or an emergency job is logged, in-day scheduling and routing will be re-optimised, live.

Once jobs are completed, operatives use their mobile device to notify FLS VISITOUR. The system then provides them with their next job route and automatically notifies the next appointment with ETA data. The customer can use Webfleet EV fleet management to track the live location of the operative on a map.

Meet the power of Webfleet EV fleet management and field planning software
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