# FACING THE COST OF FUEL

## Eliminate Empty Miles and Be A Shipper of Choice.


HOME

Diesel Fuel Rising Costs

Transparency and Collaboration

Take Control of Your Inbound

Become a Shipper of Choice

Why Wavepoint 3PL?

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As if the transportation world has not been crazy enough these past few years, we are currently seeing record-high diesel prices. If you are not sure where to check current prices, go to the website of the U.S. Energy Information Administration to find them (Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)).

You may be asking yourself, “As a shipper, do rising fuel costs even affect me?" The short answer: Absolutely. Diesel is a top three input cost for carriers, normally being their top expense. So how can you look to manage this current environment so your bottom line feels minimal impact?

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# Transparency and Collaboration

The best way to manage any supply chain disruption, including rising fuel costs, is to be transparent and turn to your partners to collaborate on a solution. It is essential to make yourself aware of how your carriers are managing these headwinds. For example, Give your carriers better forecasting data on what's coming down their pipeline in the next few weeks. Work together to develop flexible pick-up schedules.

Ask your core carriers how you can help support their own fuel savings initiatives. Here are three main points to consider:

**Eliminating empty miles:**
This can be a significant drag on a carrier's bottom line. If they can reduce empty miles, they will be saving on fuel since it's not "out-of-pocket." And there are a lot of empty miles in any given lane when you consider that approximately 36% of all truck transportations involve empty trailers.

**Planning optimal routes:**
This has to do with load times, transport times, and highway miles. They will always look to load during off-traffic hours, minimize transport times, and avoid congested roadways or stop/starts.

**Reducing idle times:**
The U.S. Dept. of Energy has said that idling burns a significant amount of fuel. The longer they wait at your facility, the more fuel they will burn.


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# Take Control of Your Inbound

Inbound transportation costs are commonly buried in the purchase price of goods by suppliers. Controlling inbound is the key to eliminating deadhead miles. Visibility and control over inbound also allows consolidation of shipments within the same lane moving at the same time to minimize freight costs, eliminate lead-time variance, reduce dwelled inventory and out-of-stocks, and shorten order/shipment cycle times.

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# Become a Shipper of Choice

You can use these headwinds and turn them into a positive for you as a shipper. Become a shipper of choice. Address these through unique solutions that will set you apart from your competitors. Look at some possible solutions below, and involve your partners when drafting your own.

- **Plan ideal routing times:** If you are scheduling appointments right during rush hour, this can really impact their fuel efficiency. Critique your load hours so carriers can avoid heavy congestion.

- **Practice efficient loading:** A Stanford study shows that fuel efficiency was tremendously impacted when a load was mispositioned. This could mean stacking evenly or even shifting loads to a certain side. Also, keep your loads under 44,500 pounds. Learn from your carriers about their equipment efficiency and what works for them.

- **Decrease load times:** This will reduce idling while also providing the driver with better efficiency of their time. Remember, drivers waiting to be loaded or unloaded must log this time against their available HOS, just as if they were driving. In short: time is money.

- **Incentives**: Increase your fuel surcharges or even provide gas cards. This shows you are aware of the carriers struggles, and these can really bring you a tremendous competitive advantage.

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# What makes **Wavepoint 3PL** a better solution?

We'll help you develop a metrics-based analysis of current supply chain operations to evaluate performance as it relates to:

- Bottom-line efficiencies
- Corporate objectives
- KPIs measured against best practices

Our optimization and modeling tools support supply chain evaluations, facility network appraisals, transportation assessments, and warehousing and inventory analysis.

**Wavepoint 3PL is your flexible logistic services provider for streamlined solutions from LTL and truckload services through an asset-based fleet; warehouse and inventory management in food grade facilities; and technology-enabled omnichannel fulfillment services, among other value-added offerings.**

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# Ready for change? Connect with the Wavepoint 3PL team today.

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