

Fuel Efficient Vehicles Program

PURPOSE

To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from municipal vehicles by purchasing fuel efficient vehicles, which has a positive impact on the environment and saves the municipality money.

HOW IT WORKS

Local governments can adopt a policy that requires the purchasing of fuel efficient vehicles for municipal/school use when new vehicles are needed, and when such vehicles are commercially available and practicable. Local governments can develop and maintain an annual vehicle inventory of fuel inefficient vehicles and a plan for replacing these vehicles with vehicles that meet the fuel efficiency ratings below.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains a database on vehicle fuel efficiency that is updated occasionally throughout the year, as new models are released. Municipalities that adopt a fuel efficient policy can reference the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Program for the latest fuel efficiency MPG rating requirements.

Public and quasi-public agencies as well as private companies who offer transportation to consumers or maintain operation fleets—such as public transit authorities, airports, aircraft carriers, shuttle service companies, long-haul trucking companies, car rental agencies—are encouraged to adopt similar pledges and policies in an effort to reduce carbon emissions. An agency or company strategic plan should pledge the following considerations when opting to purchase new vehicles:

- » To purchase vehicles with fuel efficiency ratings;
- » To purchase vehicles equipped with the most advanced emissions control systems available;
- » To purchase vehicles equipped with devices that minimize idling and warm up time automatically; and,
- » When feasible, to purchase vehicles that run on cleaner fuels like compressed natural gas.



EXAMPLES OF ADOPTION

The University of Massachusetts adopted a policy in 2010 to consider the most economical, most fuel efficient, and lowest emission vehicles available in a particular model year that meet the operational needs and policy requirements when purchasing new vehicles. Previous policy language did not include discussion of fuel efficiency and low emission vehicles.

LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION

Massachusetts Fuel Efficient Model Policy

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources developed a model Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy to encourage municipalities to reduce fuel consumption and energy costs. By adopting this policy, the municipality commits to purchasing only fuel efficient vehicles for municipal/school use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable. This model policy was developed as part of the state's Green Communities Program, and adoption of this policy is one of the five requirements to be considered a "green community." Links to the model policy and guidance for complying with the policy are below. Over 70 Massachusetts municipalities adopted and implemented a version of this fuel efficient vehicles policy since 2012.

Massachusetts Model Fuel Efficient Municipal Fleet Policy

A LINK TO THE "GUIDANCE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH GREEN COMMUNITIES ACT CRITERIA 4"

http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/green_communities/grant_program/GC-Guide-Criterion4-Feb22-2011.pdf

University of Massachusetts Policy

A LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT VEHICLE PURCHASING GUIDELINES IS PROVIDED BELOW.

<http://www.umass.edu/procurement/policies/motorvehicles.htm>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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