



INTRODUCTION

Criteria Four of the Green Communities Program states that communities must purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable. The purpose behind this criterion is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by municipal vehicles, which has a positive impact on the environmental and saves the municipality money.

As background, the US Environmental Protection Agency's Green Vehicle Guide states that:

Vehicles with lower fuel economy create more carbon dioxide - the most prevalent greenhouse gas - than vehicles with higher fuel economy. Every gallon of gasoline your vehicle burns puts about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere because air has weight and mass, and it takes a lot of it to burn a gallon of gasoline. One of the most important things you can do to reduce your contribution to global warming is to buy a vehicle with higher fuel economy. The difference between 25 miles per gallon and 20 miles per gallon can amount to the prevention of 10 tons of carbon dioxide over a vehicle's lifetime. Buying a more fuel efficient vehicle will also will help to reduce our nation's dependence on fossil fuels. And of course, you will save money by having to fuel up less often.

COMPLIANCE

To meet this criterion, municipalities need to adopt a policy (by local official or body with authority to enact policies) that requires their departments and divisions to purchase only fuel efficient vehicles (**See Appendix A, model policy**). It is important to note that both general government and school districts are required to enact a fuel efficient vehicle policy for a municipality to meet this requirement.

Moreover, the municipality is required to develop a vehicle inventory for non-exempt vehicles and a plan for replacing these vehicles with vehicles that meet the fuel efficiency ratings below. These fuel efficiency ratings are set to ensure that at least 5 or more automatic transmission models of mass production are available for sale in Massachusetts (all from affordable brands; no luxury brands). Based on 2009 and 2008 EPA data, vehicles are to have a combined city and highway MPG no less than the following:

- 2 wheel drive car: 29 MPG
- 4 wheel drive car: 24 MPG

- 2 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 20 MPG
- 4 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 18 MPG
- 2 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 17 MPG
- 4 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 16 MPG

***NOTE:** The EPA maintains a database on vehicle fuel efficiency that is updated occasionally throughout the year, as new models are released. As increasing numbers of fuel efficient vehicle models are released we anticipate that the minimum combined MPG requirements of the Green Communities Act will be revised upwards and so cities and towns are encouraged to check for updates prior to ordering new vehicles.

In order to maintain efficient driving practices before, during and after procuring fuel-efficient cars municipalities are encouraged to implement a monitoring system to record miles driven, fuel consumption, etc. for each vehicle in every department. A monitoring system will help facilitate the municipality's reduction in aggregate energy consumption.

Municipalities are also encouraged to implement anti-idling efforts to discourage idling in municipal vehicles.

EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions to this policy include fire-trucks, ambulances, and public works trucks. In addition, police cruisers are exempt from this criterion. However, municipalities must commit to purchasing fuel efficient cruisers when they become commercially available. Police department administrative vehicles must meet fuel efficient requirements.

ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE

If a municipality does not have a vehicle fleet other than heavy-duty vehicles and/or police cruisers, it must propose alternative means for meeting this requirement, e.g. having in place policies and procedures that promote reduced fuel usage for the municipality. For example, carpooling incentives for municipal employees, preferred parking for employees with hybrid vehicles, bike racks at municipal buildings, anti-idling policies, use public transportation when required to travel on the municipality's behalf and incentives for employees to bike to work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website:

www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities

This sample policy was prepared to assist cities and towns in developing a fuel efficient vehicle policy. This model policy is intended for illustration purposes only, though communities are free to utilize the format provided.

APPENDIX A

Municipality / School District	
MODEL FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE POLICY	
Effective Date	
Revisions	
Approval Date	
Effective Date	

FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE POLICY

DEFINITIONS

Combined city and highway MPG (EPA Combined fuel economy): Combined Fuel Economy means the fuel economy from driving a combination of 43% city and 57% highway miles and is calculated as follows:

$$=1/((0.43/City\ MPG)+(0.57/Highway\ MPG))^i$$

Drive System: The manner in which mechanical power is directly transmitted from the drive shaft to the wheels. The following codes are used in the drive field:

- AWD = All Wheel Drive: four-wheel drive automatically controlled by the vehicle powertrain system
- 4WD = 4-Wheel Drive: driver selectable four-wheel drive with 2-wheel drive option
- 2WD = 2-Wheel Drive
-

Heavy-duty truck: A vehicle with a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 8,500 pounds.

POLICY STATEMENT

In an effort to reduce the (city/town/school district/other local entity)'s fuel consumption and energy costs over the next _____ years the (policy making body) hereby adopts a policy to purchase only fuel efficient vehicles to meet this goal.

PURPOSE

To establish a requirement that the (city/town/school district/other local entity) purchase only fuel efficient vehicles for municipal/school use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all divisions and departments of the (city/town/school district/other local entity)

GUIDELINES

All departments / divisions shall purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

The (city/town/school district/other local entity) will maintain an annual vehicle inventory for non-exempt vehicles and a plan for replacing these vehicles with vehicles that meet the fuel efficiency ratings below. Based on the most recently published US Environmental Protection Agency data on fuel efficient vehicles, vehicles are to have a combined city and highway MPG no less than the following:

- 2 wheel drive car: 29 MPG
- 4 wheel drive car: 24 MPG
- 2 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 20 MPG
- 4 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 18 MPG
- 2 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 17 MPG
- 4 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 16 MPG

***NOTE:** The EPA maintains a database on vehicle fuel efficiency that is updated occasionally throughout the year, as new models are released. As increasing numbers of fuel efficient vehicle models are released, the minimum combined MPG requirements of the Green Communities Program may be revised. This policy may be updated from time to time to reflect any changes to the MPG requirements. The latest fuel efficiency MPG ratings are available through Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Program.

Exemptions

- Heavy-duty vehicles such as fire-trucks, ambulances, and public works trucks are exempt from this criterion

- Police cruisers are exempt from this criterion. However, municipalities must commit to purchasing fuel efficient cruisers when they become commercially available. Police department administrative vehicles must meet fuel efficient requirements

Inventory

The following information shall be included in a vehicle inventory list and said list shall be updated on an annual basis:

Model	Make	Model Year	Year Purchased	Drive System	Weight Class	MPG	Annual Miles Driven	Total Fuel Consumption	Vehicle Function

NOTE: Departments/Divisions may use EPA combined MPG estimates or actual combined MPG.

FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN

The (city/town/school district/other local entity) shall develop a plan to replace all non-exempt vehicles with fuel efficient vehicles as defined above. Said plan shall outline the process by which the (city/town/school district/other local entity) will replace vehicles, set goals for when the existing fleet will be replaced and review said plan on an annual basis.

QUESTIONS / ENFORCEMENT

All other inquiries should be directed to the department/division responsible for fleet management and/or fleet procurement. This policy is enforced by the Chief Administrative Officer and/or their designee(s)

RELATED INFORMATION:

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Green Vehicle Guide

- <http://tiny.cc/greenEPA>

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, Green Communities Program

- Green Communities Criteria: <http://tiny.cc/criteria>
- List of Fuel Efficient Vehicles: <http://tiny.cc/vehicles>

ⁱ The EPA changed their calculation of MPG in 2007 to better reflect actual driving conditions, this included a shift to more highway and less city driving.