



Fuel Efficiency Vehicles

Applies to:	<i>All Town Vehicles</i>
Select Board Original Adoption:	<u>August 30, 2016</u>
Amended on:	--
Last Reviewed by Select Board:	August 22, 2017

Introduction

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 environment 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.

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:

$$=1/[(0.43/City\ MPG)+(0.57/Highway\ MPG)]$$

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 power train system

4WD = 4-Wheel Drive: driver selectable four-wheel drive with 2-wheel drive option

2WD = 2-Wheel Drive

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



Policy

In an effort to reduce the Town of Southampton's fuel consumption and energy costs over the next 10 years, the Southampton Board of Selectman and School Committee hereby adopts a policy to purchase only fuel efficient vehicles to meet this goal.

Purpose

To establish a requirement that the Town of Southampton purchase only fuel efficient vehicles for municipal/school use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

Applicability

This policy applies to all departments of the Town of Southampton.

Guidelines

All departments shall purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable. (See Appendix A – Model Year 2010 Fuel Economy Guide).

The Town of Southampton will maintain an annual vehicle inventory for ALL vehicles and a plan for replacing any non-exempt vehicles with vehicles that meet, at a minimum, the fuel efficiency ratings contained in the most recent guidance for Criteria 4 published by the MA Department of Energy Resources' Green Communities Division. This Green Communities' Guidance for Criteria 4 must be checked for updates prior to ordering replacement vehicles.

The fuel efficiency ratings contained therein are 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: 21 MPG

4 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 19 MPG

2 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 17 MPG

4 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 16 MPG

2 wheel drive sport utility vehicle: 21 MPG

4 wheel drive sport utility vehicle: 18 MPG

Hybrid or electric vehicles in these vehicle classes will meet these criteria.

**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, as defined above, such as fire-trucks, ambulances, public works trucks, and buses are exempt from this criterion.

Police cruisers. Passenger vans and cargo vans are exempt from this criterion as fuel efficient models are not currently available. However, the Town of Southampton shall purchase fuel efficient cruisers, passenger vans, and cargo vans when they become commercially available. Police department and fire department administrative vehicles are NOT exempt and must meet fuel efficient requirements.

Inventory

In order to maintain efficient driving practices before, during and after procuring fuel-efficient cars, the Town Administrator, or his/her designee(s), shall maintain a record of vehicle model, make, model year, year purchased, drive system, weight class, MPG, whether the vehicle is exempt or non-exempt, and vehicle function for each vehicle in every department. (See Appendix B for current inventory). The vehicle inventory list will be updated on an annual basis and provided to the Green Communities Program.

Fuel Efficient Vehicle Replacement Plan

The Town of Southampton 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 town will replace vehicles, set goals for when the existing fleet will be replaced and review said plan on an annual basis.

Questions/Enforcement

All inquiries should be directed to the department responsible for fleet management and/or fleet procurement. This policy is enforced by the Town Administrator and/or his/her designee(s).