



Fuel Efficiency Vehicles

Applies to:	<i>All Town Vehicles</i>
Select Board Original Adoption:	<u>August 30, 2016</u>
Amended/Approved - Select Board	April 25, 2023
Last Reviewed by Select Board:	April 11, 2023

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 55% city and 45% highway miles and is calculated as follows: $1 / [(0.55/\text{city mpg}) + (0.45/\text{highway mpg})]$. - EPA Green Vehicle Guide

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 Select Board 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 municipal departments of the Town of Southampton. It applies to road-worthy passenger vehicles, pick up and utility trucks, and SUVs. It does not apply to specialized equipment or off-road vehicles.

Guidelines

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

The Town of Southampton will develop and maintain a vehicle inventory for all four-wheeled vehicles, both exempt and non-exempt. A plan for replacing non-exempt vehicles with vehicles that meet the fuel efficiency ratings below will also be developed and maintained. This inventory of all vehicles and replacement plan for non-exempt vehicles must include school vehicles. The fuel efficiency ratings are set to ensure that at least five or more automatic transmission models of mass production are available for sale in Massachusetts (all from affordable brands; no luxury brands). Based on 2019 EPA data, vehicles are to have a combined city and highway MPG no less than the following:

- 2 wheel drive car: 30 MPG
- 4 wheel drive car: 29 MPG
- 2 wheel drive van 22 MPG
- 4 wheel drive van 20 MPG
- 2 wheel drive pick-up truck: 21 MPG
- 4 wheel drive pick-up truck: 18 MPG
- 2 wheel drive sport utility vehicle: 24 MPG
- 4 wheel drive sport utility vehicle: 21 MPG

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



To inform purchasing decisions, information on makes and models of vehicles, including fuel economy comparisons, can be found at: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov>

**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 Criterion 4 will be revised upwards. Thus, cities and towns must check the Criterion 4 Guidance for updates prior to ordering new vehicles.*

Exemptions

Heavy-duty vehicles, as defined above, such as fire-trucks, ambulances, some 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. The vehicle inventory list will be continually updated, validated by the Select Board annually, and provided to the Green Communities Program as requested.

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. All non-exempt vehicles shall be replaced with fuel efficient vehicles that adhere to the most recent Green Communities Criterion 4 Guidance. Vehicles shall be replaced when they are no longer operable and will not be recycled from one municipal department to another unless the recycled replacement is more efficient than the vehicle it is replacing.

Questions/Enforcement

All inquiries should be directed to the relevant department.

This policy is enforced by the Town Administrator and/or his/her designee(s).