

TOWN AND COUNTY OF NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE POLICY

Effective Date	December 1, 2019
Select Board Approval Date	September 18, 2019
School Board/Superintendent Approval Date	

INTRODUCTION

All communities seeking Green Communities designation must adopt a fuel-efficient vehicle policy. The purpose behind this requirement is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by municipal vehicles, which has a positive impact on the environment and saves municipalities money.

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 help to reduce our nation's dependence on fossil fuels. And of course, you will save money by having to fuel up less often.

POLICY STATEMENT

In an effort to reduce the Town and County of Nantucket's fuel consumption and energy costs, the Select Board hereby adopt a policy to purchase fuel efficient vehicles to meet this goal.

PURPOSE

This policy establishes a requirement that the Town and County of Nantucket purchase 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 Town and County of Nantucket, including Nantucket Public Schools.

GUIDELINES

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

The Town will maintain an annual vehicle inventory for all vehicles and maintain 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 Criterion 4 published by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' Green Communities Division.

It is the responsibility of the Town to check the Green Communities Division's Guidance for Criterion 4 for updates prior to ordering replacement vehicles.

EXEMPTIONS

The following vehicles are exempt from the fuel-efficient requirement:

- Heavy-duty vehicles exceeding 8,500lbs, such as: fire trucks, ambulances, buses, and large trucks used for specialized tasks (e.g. plowing, sanding, sweeping, and/or grounds needs).
- Passenger vans and cargo vans
- Police cruisers
- Motorcycles
- All-terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Utility Vehicles (UTVs)¹
- Tractors, mowers and other “equipment” used for specialized tasks such as grounds keeping²

Although police cruisers, vans and buses are currently exempt, the Town and County of Nantucket is committed to purchasing more fuel-efficient models as they become commercially available and practicable.

Police 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 vehicles, the Town Manager, or his/her designee(s), shall maintain a vehicle inventory list (attachment A) including the following information, which shall be updated on an annual basis and provided to the Green Communities Division:

Model	Make	Model Year	Year/month Purchased	Drive System: 2 WD, 4WD or AWD	> 8500 pounds? (Y or N)	Exempt or non-exempt	MPG Rating	Vehicle Function

Note: The Town and County may use EPA combined MPG estimates or actual combined MPG.

FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN/ “VEHICLE RECYCLING”

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 vehicle meets the fuel efficiency ratings outlined in this policy.

In addition, when replacing exempt vehicles, the function of the vehicle will be reviewed for potential

¹ According to MA DOER, ATVs and UTVs are not passenger carrying vehicles that operate primarily on roads and as such are exempt from inclusion in the fuel-efficient vehicle inventory

² According to MA DOER, “equipment” used for specialized tasks are exempt from inclusion in the fuel-efficient vehicle inventory

replacement with a more fuel-efficient vehicle, including a fuel-efficient non-exempt vehicle.

This review shall be performed by the department/division staff requesting the replacement, with support from staff responsible for Green Communities Program coordination.

DEFINITIONS

Combined city and highway MPG (EPA Combined Fuel Economy): Combined Fuel Economy means the fuel economy from driving a combination of 43 percent city and 57 percent highway miles and is calculated as follows: $=1/((0.43/\text{city MPG})+(0.57/\text{highway MPG}))$.

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

- AWD = All wheel drive: 4-wheel drive automatically controlled by the vehicle power train system.
- 4WD = 4-wheel drive: driver selectable 4-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.

QUESTIONS/ENFORCEMENT

All other inquiries should be directed to the department/division staff responsible for fleet management and/or fleet procurement. This policy shall be enforced by the Town Manager and/or designee(s).