

## 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 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 in the drive field:

- 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 pound

### POLICY STATEMENT

In an effort to reduce the School Department's fuel consumption and energy costs the Dracut School Committee hereby adopts a policy to purchase only fuel efficient vehicles to meet this goal.

### PURPOSE

For the School Department to both develop fuel efficient vehicle policies that would require the purchase of only fuel efficient vehicles for municipal and school use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

### APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all divisions and departments of the School Department.

### GUIDELINES

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

The School Department 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 Criterion 4 published by the MA Department of Energy Resources' Green Communities Division.

It is the responsibility of the Town of Dracut Municipal Government and School Department to check the Green Communities Division's Guidance for Criterion 4 for updates prior to ordering replacement vehicles.

## **EXEMPTIONS**

Heavy-duty vehicles: examples include fire-trucks, ambulances, and some public works trucks that meet the definition of heavy-duty vehicle

Police cruisers, passenger vans and cargo vans are exempt from this criterion since fuel efficient models are not currently available. However, we commit to purchasing fuel efficient police cruisers, passenger vans and cargo vans when they become commercially available.

## **INVENTORY**

The following information shall be included in a vehicle inventory list and said list 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 nonexempt

MPG Rating

Vehicle Function

(Departments/Divisions may use EPA combined MPG estimates or actual combined MPG.)

## **FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN**

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 the Policy. In addition, when replacing exempt vehicles, the function of the vehicle will be reviewed for potential replacement with a more fuel efficient vehicle, including a fuel efficient non-exempt vehicle. The School Department will review on an annual basis the Vehicle Inventory, along with the Green Communities Criterion 4 Guidance, to plan for new acquisitions as part of planning for the new fiscal year budget.

**Adopted by Dracut School Committee January 28, 2019**