

Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy

Policy Statement:

In an effort to reduce the City of Westfield's fuel consumption and energy costs the Westfield School Committee hereby adopts a policy to purchase only fuel efficient vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and energy costs.

Purpose:

To establish a requirement that the Westfield Public School's purchase only fuel efficient vehicles for municipal and local public school use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

Applicability:

This policy applies to all departments of the Westfield Public Schools.

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:

$$=1((0.43/\text{City MPG}) + (0.57/\text{Highway MPG}))$$

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

Guidelines:

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

The Westfield Public Schools 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, fuel efficiency ratings contained in the most recent guidance for Criteria 4 published by the MA Department of Energy Resources' Green Communities Division. The fuel efficiency ratings contained therein are based on the most recently published US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) combined city and highway MPG ratings for vehicles. Based on the 2010 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 minivan: 20 MPG
- 4 wheel drive minivan: 18 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

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. The 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.

This Green Communities' Guidance for Criteria 4 must be checked for updates prior to ordering new vehicles.

Exemptions:

- Heavy-duty vehicles. Examples include dump trucks, specialty vehicles, and some maintenance trucks that meet the definition of Heavy-duty vehicle.
- Passenger vans and cargo vans are exempt from this criterion as fuel efficient models are not Currently available. However, Westfield Public Schools is committed to purchasing fuel efficient passenger vans and cargo vans when they become commercially available.

Inventory:

The following information shall be included in the vehicle inventory list, which shall be updated on an annual basis and provided to the Green Communities Program:

- Model
- Make
- Model Year
- Year Purchased
- Drive System (2WD, 4WD, or AWD)
- Weight Class (>8,500 pounds)
- MPG
- Exempt or Non-Exempt
- Vehicle Function

NOTE: The EPA combined MGP estimates or actual combined MPG can be used to complete the inventory.

Fuel Efficient Vehicle Replacement Plan:

The Westfield Public Schools 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 vehicles will be replaced, set goals for when the existing fleet will be replaced and review said plan on an annual basis. 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 efficiency ratings outlined in this Policy.

1st reading waived and 2nd final reading & adopted: October 17, 2016