

**TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN  
FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE  
POLICY**

Effective Date	Nov. 1, 2018
Revisions	
Board of Selectmen Approval Date	10/22/18
School Superintendent Approval Date	10/23/18

**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.*

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## 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 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.

## POLICY STATEMENT

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

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## PURPOSE

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

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## APPLICABILITY

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

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## 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 Fairhaven 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 pickup truck: 21 MPG
- 4 wheel drive small pickup truck: 19 MPG
- 2 wheel drive standard pickup truck: 17 MPG
- 4 wheel drive standard pickup 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 Fairhaven 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 nonexempt, and vehicle function for each vehicle in every department. (See Appendix ? 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**

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 Town of Fairhaven 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.

#### **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).

# Town of Fairhaven

*Office of the Town Administrator*

Fairhaven Town Hall  
40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA 01845

Mr. Seth Pickering  
Southeast Regional Coordinator  
Green Communities Division  
20 Riverside Drive  
Lakeville, MA

Dear Seth,

Please be informed that at their October 22, 2018 meeting the Fairhaven Board of Selectmen voted to adopt the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy previously submitted to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Rees". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "R".

Mark Rees  
Town Administrator

*Office of the Superintendent*  
**FAIRHAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
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Fairhaven, MA 02719

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**Robert N. Baldwin, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Tara M. Kohler**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

**Diane S. Sullivan**  
*Director of Student Services*

**Nicole V. Potter**  
*Director of Technology and Finance*

*November 26, 2018*

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*On behalf of the Fairhaven School Committee please be advised that the Fairhaven Public Schools adopted the Fuel Efficiency Policy on October 23, 2018.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert N. Baldwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

*Robert N. Baldwin, Ed.D.*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

RNB/jt