

Updated policy Dec. 2020 to reflect February 2020 MA Department of Energy Resources' Green Communities Division guidelines. Updated sections are highlighted.

Town of Plymouth FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE PURCHASING POLICY	
Original Effective Date	June 28, 2011
Updated Policy Effective Date	July 1, 2021
Town Manager Approval	June 14, 2011
Update	February 9, 2021
Selectmen Approval	June 28, 2011
Select Board Update	February 9, 2021

## FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE PURCHASING POLICY

### 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:

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

The attached **Fuel Efficiency Ratings – 2020** document reflects the most recent EPA information as of December 2020.

**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:** Vehicles 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 Plymouth's fuel consumption and energy costs the Town of Plymouth hereby adopts a policy to purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles to meet this goal. Additionally the Town of Plymouth will discontinue the re-commissioning of old police cars into the administrative fleet, unless a fuel efficient police car becomes available in the future.

## **PURPOSE**

To establish a requirement that the Town of Plymouth purchase only 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 of Plymouth. **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/divisions shall purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable. The purchase of vehicles is subject to appropriation by a vote of Town Meeting.

The Town of Plymouth 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. The fuel efficiency ratings contained therein are based on the most recently published US Environmental Protection Agency combined city and highway MPG ratings for vehicles. This Green Communities' Guidance for Criterion 4 must be checked for updates prior to ordering new vehicles.

The Town Manager or their Designee shall determine which vehicles will be pooled vehicles and which will be dedicated use vehicles. These vehicles will be right sized to reflect the function of said vehicle. This determination will maximize the fleet and create less duplication of use

### ***Exemptions***

- Heavy-duty vehicles: examples include fire trucks, ambulances, and some public works trucks that meet the definition of heavy-duty vehicle.
- As of the **updated** adoption date (above), police cruisers-are exempt from this criterion due to lack of widespread availability. However, we commit to purchasing fuel-efficient police cruisers when they become commercially available. Police and fire department administrative vehicles are NOT exempt and must meet fuel efficient requirements.

## **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	Weight Class > 8500 pounds? (Y or N)	Exempt or non- exempt	MPG Rating	Vehicle Function

**NOTE: 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 is more efficient than the vehicle it is replacing. 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 Plymouth 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 other inquiries should be directed to the department/division responsible for fleet management and/or fleet procurement. This policy is enforced by the Town Manager and/or their designee(s).