

## Strategies to Reduce Fuel Usage by Municipal Fleets

This checklist is intended to provide a quick overview of actions your city or town can take to reduce fuel consumption by municipal vehicles. The fact sheets available on our website provide much greater detail regarding how to implement these measures, as well as information about electric vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles, idle reduction systems, and other fuel-saving technologies.

<https://ag.umass.edu/clean-energy/current-initiatives/greening-municipal-fleets>

### Track Fuel Usage

- Start tracking municipal fuel use by vehicle**, through a fuel log, electronic fuel management system, or telematics software. This is an important first step in identifying where to focus fuel reduction efforts.

### Adopt Proactive Municipal Policies to Save Fuel

- Adopt and advertise anti-idling policies in your municipality**, and incorporate anti-idling policies into staff contracts.
- Adopt state fuel efficiency standards** provided by the Massachusetts Operational Services Division for all municipal vehicle purchases.
- Adopt municipal vehicle purchasing and replacement policies which include language that explicitly calls for consideration of vehicle fuel economy** and evaluation of fuel-efficient, hybrid, and electric options during vehicle purchasing.
- Provide training to municipal employees on green driving habits**, which can significantly improve fuel economy.
- Adopt proactive vehicle maintenance schedules and require departments to submit a log**, to ensure schedules are being followed.
- Require municipal staff to use smaller, fuel efficient vehicles whenever possible** for errands and longer trips that do not require large amounts of equipment.

### Reduce Fuel Consumption of Existing Vehicles

- Optimize routes for vehicles with fixed routes**, such as snow plows and school buses.
- Explore availability of hybrid conversions and retrofits** for existing heavy-duty vehicles.
- Explore whether idle-limiting technology or auxiliary power units can be added to existing vehicles**, such as police and construction vehicles. These technologies power down the engine during long periods of idling, while supplying an alternative source of power to keep on-board equipment running.

### Consider Fuel Efficiency for New Vehicle Purchases

- Always evaluate fuel-efficient, hybrid, and electric options** as part of the vehicle purchasing process.