

Strategies to Reduce Fuel Use by Municipal Fleets

This checklist provides a quick overview of actions your city or town can take to reduce fuel consumption by municipal vehicles. See our website for detailed guidance on 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 Use

- Inventory all municipal vehicles and 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 an anti-idling policy to reduce fuel waste.** Educate staff on the policy and its goals, and incorporate the policy into staff and vendor contracts.
- Adopt proactive vehicle maintenance schedules and require departments to submit a log**, to ensure schedules are followed.
- Require municipal staff to use smaller, fuel efficient vehicles whenever possible**, and to use larger vehicles only when necessary for the task.
- Provide training to municipal staff on green driving habits**, such as removing unnecessary loads and avoiding aggressive driving, which can significantly improve fuel economy.
- Optimize routes for vehicles with fixed routes**, such as snow plows, school buses, and garbage trucks.

Consider Retrofits for Existing Vehicles

- Explore availability of hybrid conversions and retrofits** for existing heavy-duty vehicles.
- Consider 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

- Adopt state fuel efficiency standards** provided by the Massachusetts Operational Services Division for all light-duty and medium-duty 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.