



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: February 15, 2011

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Approval of Green Fleets Policy**

Recommendation:

Approval of the Green Fleet Policy for City owned vehicles and heavy equipment.

Previous Directives:

None

Prepared by: John Scharffbillig, Director Fleet Services x5775

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: John Scharffbillig, Director Fleet Services

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval _NA Date _____

Civil Rights Approval Approval _NA Date _____

Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval _NA Date _____

Financial Impact

No financial impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: NA

City Goals: NA

Comprehensive Plan: NA

Zoning Code: NA

Background/Supporting Information

Cars and trucks are the largest contributor of air pollutants within Minneapolis and are a significant source of greenhouse gases. Improving air quality will require burning less fuel, burning cleaner fuels, and better cleaning the emissions from the fuel we do burn. Today's vehicles are much cleaner than those of even a few years ago. Hybrid-electric and pure electric vehicles promise to dramatically decrease vehicle tail-pipe emissions.

In 2008 the Environmental Coordinating Team (ECT) recommended that the city develop and adopt a Green Fleets Policy. In developing this policy, Fleet Services worked with the ECT, the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, affected city departments, and the Sustainability Coordinator to develop a policy that will reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, while being responsible with city financial resources.

This policy memorializes many of the activities that are already taking place and provides clearer direction and standardized practices for all city departments.

The key elements of this policy are as follows:

1. Inventory and report fleet-wide greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Optimize the fleet size, by eliminating or reassigning unused or under-used vehicles while promoting car-pooling across departmental lines.
3. Encourage and educate city staff in eco-driving best practices (*e.g.*, reduced idling).
4. Reduce tailpipe emissions, through advanced emissions controls.
5. Purchase, when necessary, new vehicles that provide the best available net reduction in vehicle fleet emissions, considering life-cycle economic and environmental impacts.

A few highlights of the City's efforts to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases from our fleet that will be continued with this policy include:

- The City has made progress in reducing fuel consumption, thereby saving money and reducing pollutants related to its fleets.
- The City has reduced its fleet size. Many departments now use Hour Car - the non profit Prius car sharing organization when they travel on city business and we have worked in partnership with others to use federal grant funds to clean the emissions from many of our existing large vehicles
- The City has been willing to test and showcase new technologies such as electric vehicles and segways prior to market acceptance. It is anticipated that new federal regulations will further result in cleaner emitting vehicles and fuels.
- The City has an idling policy in place to help in reducing the amount of greenhouse gas being admitted by city vehicles.