

Fleet and Staff Management

Accounting for East Lansing's Sustainability Goals

Climate Sustainability Plan (CSP)

The City's **Climate Sustainability Plan** sets clear goals for the municipal fleet: reduce petroleum use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Fleet Services will help achieve these targets through cleaner vehicle acquisition, alternative fuels, and smarter operations.

1. Buy & Operate Cleaner Vehicles

Plan Calls For: Higher average MPG, fewer total units, and alternative fuel conversions where feasible.

Fleet Actions:

- Set minimum MPG/MPGe thresholds in all specs
- Prioritize hybrids, EVs, CNG, or biodiesel-capable models

3. Adopt an Alternative Fuel Policy

Plan Calls For: More hybrid/alternative-fuel purchases.

Fleet Actions:

- Pilot B20 biodiesel, EV charging, or other low-carbon fuels
- Fold successful pilots into the standard vehicle replacement cycle

2. Reduce Idling & Train Drivers

Plan Calls For: Employee education and anti-idling programs.

Fleet Actions:

- Enforce a no-idling rule for all City vehicles
- Add eco-driving tips to operator manuals and require annual refresher training

4. Shrink Petroleum Use

Plan Goal: Reduce petroleum use to reduce GHG emissions.

Fleet Actions:

- Annually right-size the fleet—retire or pool underused assets
- Track fuel use per vehicle and set reduction targets

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP)

Resolution 2017-2 requires all departments to prioritize environmentally preferable products and services when cost and function are comparable (within a 10% price range). Exemptions apply only for clear functional, cost, or emergency needs.

Department Responsibilities:

- **Lifecycle Thinking:** Consider environmental impact from production to disposal
- **Waste Reduction:** Choose recyclable, low-waste, or digital solutions
- **Vendor Engagement:** Ask about sustainability practices and certifications



Green Fleet Purchasing Policy

City Council Policy Resolution 2014-8 supports the goals of the Climate Sustainability Plan by equipping Fleet management with directives and tools to optimize vehicle and equipment purchases for energy efficiency and emissions reduction.

When departments submit purchase requests, Fleet evaluates based on:

- **Right-Sizing and Necessity:** Fleet will assess if the requested vehicle or equipment is the most appropriate size and type for its specific duty requirements, ensuring the City avoids over-sizing or under-utilizing assets. Also consider opportunities to reduce overall fleet size.
- **Fuel Economy and Emissions:** Requests will be evaluated based on fuel economy (miles per gallon or equivalent) and fuel cost per mile. Fleet prioritizes vehicles that significantly reduce harmful emissions (like CO₂, CO, NO_x) and can utilize alternative fuels when practical for the operational need.
- **Total Cost and Green Incentive:** To support sustainable choices, the policy allows for a 10% price premium: green vehicles or equipment meeting department's needs may receive a purchasing preference, even if the price is up to 10% higher than the lowest bid. *Fleet will evaluate the total cost, including purchase price, fuel, and long-term maintenance/operating costs. The 10% premium includes these considerations.*
- **Performance and Availability:** Requests are assessed to ensure the proposed option meets all required functionality and is available at a reasonable cost without disrupting operations. Exemptions apply only if no suitable green option meets specifications, the cost is too high to be recovered (over 10%), or inadequate fueling infrastructure would disrupt operations.

Requires annual reporting to Council.

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