



Town of Royalston

Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy

Effective Date of This Policy: October 3, 2017

As part of Royalston's overall goals of conserving energy and resources, reducing waste, protecting public health and the environment, and promoting the use of clean technologies, the town hereby adopts these policies congruent with the Massachusetts Green Communities Program:

- (1) Non-Exempt Vehicles:** If Royalston purchases a non-exempt vehicle as part of its fleet, it shall be the policy of the town to purchase only vehicles that meet the MPG requirements of the Massachusetts Green Communities Program; current standards are available through the state Department of Energy Resources.
- (2) Currently Exempt Vehicles:** When Royalston replaces a currently exempt vehicle, it shall be the policy of the town to purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

Exempt and Non-Exempt Vehicles: Town-owned heavy-duty vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances, police cruisers and heavy public work trucks are exempt from this policy. Town-owned vehicles used solely for administrative purposes and light trucks (those weighing less than 8,500 pounds) not used for emergency work are not exempt. This policy does not apply to vehicles owned or operated by Athol-Royalston Regional School District.

Alternative Compliance with Massachusetts Green Communities Goals: Because Royalston currently owns only exempt vehicles, the town as part of its Green Communities initiative also adopts the following practices:

- (1) Annual Inventory Review:** The town will maintain an annual vehicle inventory (Attachment A), updated at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Police, Fire and Highway Departments will each compile its own inventory and send it to the administrative assistant, who will provide copies to the Select Board, the Energy Committee, and the Capital Planning Committee. The Energy Committee will review this information in September of each year for potential ways to reduce consumption, including reducing vehicle miles traveled, replacing exempt vehicles with fuel-efficient non-exempt vehicles, and replacing exempt vehicles with more efficient exempt vehicles. The Energy Committee will submit its recommendations, if any, to the appropriate department, the Select Board, and the Capital Planning Committee.

(2) Vehicle Replacement Plan: Whenever a Royalston vehicle is being replaced, the Energy Committee will review its inventory records, the expected efficiency of the replacement vehicle, and the current state efficiency standards. Whenever possible, the purchasing department will submit specifications from several different manufacturers to the Energy Committee for review. The committee will make a recommendation to the purchasing department and to the Select Board, but the final decision rests with that department and the Select Board.

(3) Anti-Idling Policy: Royalston hereby adopts the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Section 16A, which forbids idling when a vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time in excess of five minutes. The policy does not apply to vehicles being serviced if operation of the engine is essential to the service work, to vehicles engaged in the delivery or acceptance of goods for which engine-assisted power is necessary, or to vehicles engaged in an operation for which engine power is necessary for another purpose. (See Attachment B for full text of policy.)

Adopted October 15, 2013

Amended October 3, 2017

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Attachment A: Fleet List

Department:
Report Date:

[illegible]

*AWD, 4WD or 2WD

****If exact weight unknown, specify <8,500 or >8,500**

***E – Exempt vehicle; N – Non-exempt vehicle

Town of Royalston Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy Attachment B

MA General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 16A: Anti-Idling

Section 16A. No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit the unnecessary operation of the engine of a motor vehicle while said vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time in excess of five minutes. This section shall not apply to (a) vehicles being serviced, provided that operation of the engine is essential to the proper repair thereof, or (b) vehicles engaged in the delivery or acceptance of goods, wares, or merchandise for which engine assisted power is necessary and substitute alternate means cannot be made available, or (c) vehicles engaged in an operation for which the engine power is necessary for an associate power need other than movement and substitute alternate power means cannot be made available provided that such operation does not cause or contribute to a condition of air pollution. Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars for the first offense, nor more than five hundred dollars for each succeeding offense.