



ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION GUIDANCE FOR AUTOMOBILES

The District of Columbia is committed to procuring quality goods and services in a timely manner and reasonable cost that support the District in meeting its sustainability goals. Compliance with specification guidance is sufficient to meet PPRA Section 1101(a) environmentally preferable procurement requirements. When purchasing or leasing light-duty vehicles for the District's Fleet, programs shall consult with members of the Department of Public Works' Fleet Management Administration, and abide by the procurement guidance provided below.

Scope

This specification addresses light-duty vehicles.

Specification Language

Light-duty vehicles purchased or leased by the District of Columbia shall meet the following requirements:

1. Vehicles shall be listed on the Department of Public Works (DPW) Pre-Approved Vehicles List, which includes Alternate Fuel Vehicles (AFVs). Purchasers shall use the most current version of the list in effect at the time of purchase.
2. In accordance with D.C. Code § 50-203, vehicles shall have an EPA estimated miles per gallon (MPG) average of not less than 22 MPG, and shall not be sports utility vehicles.

Background Information

The composition of the District's fleet is guided by two policies: 1) Vehicles should have an EPA estimated miles per gallon (MPG) average of not less than 22 MPG; and 2) Alternate Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) should account for 75% of light-duty vehicle purchases. All vehicles purchased or leased by the District are pre-approved by the DPW Fleet Management Administration. Only vehicles that reside on the Pre-Approved Vehicles List shall be purchased or leased. The Pre-Approved Vehicles List includes AFVs and conventional vehicles with 22 MPG and higher. When purchasing or leasing light-duty vehicles for the District's Fleet, please consult with members of the Department of Public Works' Fleet Management Administration by calling 202-541-3705 or click [here](#).

Alternate Fuel Vehicles are defined as any product capable of operating on alternate fuels such as methanol, ethanol, natural gas (compressed and liquid), propane and electricity. Vehicles may be dedicated or dual-fuel, including bi-fuel and flexible fuel.

BENEFITS

The District could save **\$48,000** in fuel costs over five years by purchasing a dozen 22-MPG vehicles instead of sport utility vehicles.

This would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **80.4** metric tons over five years.

This is equivalent to the energy used annually by **7.3 homes**.

SOURCES

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov>

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>



Environmental Hotspots The most important environmental benefits associated with this specification

MATERIALS USE / SUSTAINABLE SOURCING High-MPG vehicles and AFVs use less petroleum fuel than conventional vehicles, reducing reliance on a non-sustainable resource and on foreign oil.

ENERGY USE The transportation sector relies heavily on fossil fuels, which are responsible for air emissions. According to EPA, the combustion of fossil fuels such as gasoline and diesel is the second largest source of CO₂ emissions, accounting for about 32% of total U.S. CO₂ emissions and 27% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012. High-MPG vehicles and AFVs have lower carbon emissions than conventional vehicles.

POLLUTION/TOXICITY/ HEAVY METALS Motor vehicles emit criteria pollutants including nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter, and air toxics such as benzene. These substances have been linked with human health problems, including respiratory disease, heart disease, and birth defects. AFVs have lower emissions of criteria pollutants compared to conventional vehicles.

Significance to the District

SUSTAINABLE DC PLAN Use of this specification contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable DC Plan Climate & Environment Goal 1: Minimize generation of greenhouse gas emissions from all sources; and Transportation Action 4.2: Require District Government and encourage businesses to purchase clean fuel, low-emission fleet vehicles.

LEGISLATION Purchase of vehicles that comply with this specification are compliant with D.C. Code § 50-203 , which states that vehicles shall have an EPA estimated miles per gallon (MPG) average of not less than 22 MPG, and shall not be sports utility vehicles.

EXISTING CONTRACTS All fleet light-vehicle purchases must be made using the pre-approved vehicle list, maintained by DPW Fleet Management.

For more information about sustainable specification guidance or the District's Sustainable Purchasing Program, please visit: <http://ocp.dc.gov/page/sustainable-purchasing>, call the OCP Customer Contact Center at: [202.724.4477](tel:202.724.4477) , or email sppdc@dc.gov.