

Zero-Emission First Vehicle Policy

Town of West Tisbury

Approved 9/17/25

Effective 9/19/25

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Zero-Emission First Vehicle Policy is to set standards and guidelines for the purchase, operation, and maintenance of the Town of West Tisbury fleet vehicles that will advance the economic, energy, and climate sustainability of municipal operations by achieving long-term reductions in energy costs, energy consumption, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The primary objectives of this policy are to:

- Accelerate the adoption of emissions-reduction technologies and the transition of the fleet to all-electric or other environmentally advantageous vehicles
- Minimize the long-term environmental and financial impacts of fleet vehicles
- Optimize the composition of the fleet to achieve maximum fuel efficiency
- Advance the installation of electric charging infrastructure across municipal facilities
- Prioritize the utilization of grants, rebates, and incentives to support the acquisition of vehicles and technologies that will improve efficiency and reduce GHG emissions

This policy shall not require a department to take any action that conflicts with local, state, or federal requirements, nor mandate the procurement of products that do not perform adequately for their intended use, exclude adequate purchasing competition, or require the purchase of vehicles that are not commercially available or practicable.

1) DEFINITIONS

a) **Acquisition** - In the context of this guideline, acquisition refers to the purchase or lease of on-road vehicles (whether used or new) by and for the Town of West Tisbury either to replace an existing fleet vehicle or to expand a fleet.

b) **Alternative-fuel vehicles (AFVs)** - Dedicated flexible-fuel or dual-fuel vehicles designed to operate on at least one alternative fuel (such as electricity, biodiesel, propane, or natural gas) to reduce carbon emissions.

c) **Battery electric vehicle (BEV)** - An electric vehicle that draws propulsion energy solely from an on-board electrical energy storage device during operation that is charged from an external source of electricity.

d) **Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) or electric vehicle charging station** - An electric component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles by permitting the transfer of electric energy to a battery or other storage device in an electric vehicle.

e) **Exempt vehicles** - Vehicles that are exempt from the Green Communities Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy include off-road vehicles, motorcycles, and heavy-duty vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 8,500 pounds. Examples include fire engines, ambulances, and some public works vehicles.

f) **Fleet vehicles** - In the context of this guideline, refers to on-road vehicle assets owned or leased and operated by the Town of West Tisbury.

g) **Fuel-cell electric vehicle (FCEV or FCV)** - An electric vehicle that draws propulsion energy solely from an on-board energy storage device during operation, where energy stored as hydrogen is converted to electricity by a fuel cell that is recharged from an external source of hydrogen.



Town of West Tisbury
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
West Tisbury, Massachusetts 02575

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March 17, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

At a public Select Board meeting held on September 18, 2025, the West Tisbury Select Board voted to adopt the attached Zero-Emission First Vehicle Policy.

Thank you,

Jessica Miller, Chair
West Tisbury Select Board