

MEETING: Community Health, Environment, & Culture Committee

DATE: August 26, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Office of Sustainability

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Douglas R. Melnick, AICP, ISSP-SA, CNU-A

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: All

SUBJECT:

A briefing on the proposed Sustainable Fleet Acquisition & Management Policy as a replacement for the current Vehicle Fleet Environmental Acquisition Policy.

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), the City has committed to convert fleet passenger vehicles and small trucks to more efficient options, with a priority on electrification. To support this effort, the Office of Sustainability, Building & Equipment Services Department, and Interdepartmental Green Fleet Delivery Team have proposed to replace the City's current Vehicle Fleet Environmental Acquisition Policy with the Sustainable Fleet Acquisition & Management Policy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Promoting clean and efficient technologies, including electric vehicles (EVs), is a mitigation strategy for reducing transportation consumption and improving air quality in the City of San Antonio's SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan, the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, and the Ozone Attainment Master Plan.

In collaboration with CoSA staff and with support provided by the Electrification Coalition through the American Cities Climate Challenge, the Office of Sustainability has conducted studies and review to understand the City's opportunities for vehicle electrification. The City of San Antonio Electric Vehicle Fleet Conversion and City-Wide Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study completed in 2020 identified EV alternatives to vehicles in the City's existing fleet. In order to accelerate municipal EV adoption while continuing to perform City operations and responsibly maintain the City's budget, significant changes are proposed to the City's 2010 Vehicle Fleet Environmental Acquisition Policy. In 2020, the Electrification Coalition worked with City staff to identify potential locations for charging City fleet vehicles in anticipation of CoSA's growing electric fleet. Through collaboration with external partners and the City's Green Fleet Delivery Team, the proposed Sustainable Fleet Acquisition & Management Policy was drafted and proposed for adoption.

The Green Fleet Delivery Team was composed of staff from the Office of Sustainability, Building & Equipment Services, Public Works, Center City Development & Operations, Solid Waste Management, Aviation, City Attorney's Office, Office of Innovation, Planning, Transportation, Parks & Recreation, Metro Health, and Office of Management & Budget.

ISSUE:

The transportation sector is the second-largest contributor of greenhouse gases in San Antonio's inventory. Further, in 2019 Bexar County was deemed in nonattainment for federal ground-level ozone standards, a public health and economic issue. The CAAP, adopted by Ordinance 2019-10-17-0840 commits the City to lead by example and minimize greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) through the adoption of a more efficient municipal fleet. The implementation actions directly related to EVs are:

- Convert all fleet passenger vehicles and small trucks to more efficient options by 2025 and
- Research and pilot the electrification of heavy trucks

The proposed Sustainable Fleet Acquisition & Management Policy is expanding the initial Vehicle Fleet Environmental Acquisition Policy by incorporating the goals set forth by the CAAP and the Ozone Attainment Master Plan. Three goals shall guide the City's fleet management policy:

1. Reduce Consumption of Fossil Fuels,
2. Improve Department Operational & Fiscal Efficiency, and
3. Minimize Fleet Composition for Lowest Possible Footprint.

To achieve the above goals, City fleet vehicles will be:

1. Fuel-efficient with the lowest emissions within the vehicle class/type; prioritizing zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) over comparable vehicles powered by internal combustion vehicles utilizing fossil fuels and;
2. Commercially available, practical and reasonably cost-competitive for the class/type of vehicles needed for specific assignments.
3. Replacement vehicles will not necessarily be like-for-like but will be capable of completing similar job functions.

The proposed policy also recommends the development of a Fleet Review & Policy Steering Committee and establishes an appeals process. Committee membership will be determined by the City's Manager's Office to include, at a minimum, one representative from the Fleet Acquisitions Team in the Building & Equipment Services Department and one representative from the Office of Sustainability. Responsibilities of the committee include:

1. The committee will develop a list of available ZEVs, fuel efficient, and alternative fuels vehicles for vehicle classes present in the CoSA fleet. The list shall include vehicle type, make and model, vehicle price estimate, and market availability.
2. The committee will analyze this policy and make any necessary revisions as a part of the annual budget process.
3. The committee will determine exemption guidelines which will allow departments to purchase hybrid or internal combustion engine vehicles as opposed to alternate fuel vehicles. These guidelines will be released by February 28th of each year in anticipation of the budget development process. Departments will use this guidance when requesting the replacement of an existing vehicle or the addition of a vehicle to the fleet.
4. The committee will review requests for hybrid and internal combustion engine vehicles that do not get granted automatic exemption through the announced exemption guidelines. Departments may appeal the decision of the committee to the City Manager's Office.
5. The committee will produce an annual report, made available to the City Manager's Office, Department Heads, and Office of Management and Budget, outlining progress made towards achieving policy objectives.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this briefing item outside of current funding mechanisms for fleet vehicle replacement and acquisition.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests recommendation to send to full council for consideration.