

Section 41-17A – Green Fleets Policy

Section 41-17A-1

Legislative findings.

(a) The Legislature of Alabama makes the following findings and statements:

(1) Energy use associated with the operation of state motor vehicle fleets exacerbates local air quality problems and results in greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change.

(2) Agencies and departments of state government have a significant role to play in improving local air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by improving the energy efficiency of their fleets and reducing emissions from fleet operations.

(3) Improving the energy efficiency of state fleets will result in a significant monetary savings in the long term.

(b) The Legislature expresses its intent as follows:

(1) To express its power as a participant in the marketplace to ensure that purchases and expenditures of public monies are made in a manner consistent with the policies of improving local air quality, reducing Alabama's water pollution of hazardous waste oil, reducing the state's petroleum dependency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

(2) To establish a green fleets policy in conjunction with establishing life cycle costing as a method of addressing the management, operation, and procurement of fleet vehicles under the control of the State of Alabama in order to improve the energy efficiency of its fleets and reduce emissions from its fleets.

(Act 2009-650, p. 1999, §1.)

Section 41-17A-2

Definitions.

As used in this chapter the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) FUEL ECONOMY. The applicable model year combined highway/city fuel economy with respect to a vehicle as determined on a gasoline gallon equivalent basis as determined by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with respect to the vehicle. If such data is not available from the administrator, the fuel economy shall be the total in-use fuel consumed divided by the total miles driven for the most recent fiscal year.

(2) HEAVY DUTY VEHICLE. Any motor vehicle, licensed for use on roadways, having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds.

(3) LIGHT DUTY VEHICLE. Any motor vehicle designed primarily for the transportation of persons and with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less.

(4) MEDIUM DUTY VEHICLE. Any vehicle having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or less and which is not a light-duty truck or passenger vehicle.

(Act 2009-650, p. 1999, §2.)

Section 41-17A-3

Inventory of fleet vehicles.

(a) In order to establish a baseline of data so that a state green fleets policy may be established, implemented, and monitored, each state department and agency fleet manager shall develop an inventory and analysis of the fleet vehicles within that department or agency as of the close of fiscal year 2010. This inventory shall include the following specific information:

(1) Number of vehicles classified by the model year, make, model, engine size, vehicle identification number (VIN), drivetrain type of 2-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive, and the rated vehicle weight and classification as either light-duty, medium-duty, or heavy-duty.

(2) Miles per gallon or gallon equivalent, per vehicle.

(3) Average fuel economy of all light-duty vehicles in the fleet.

(4) Average fuel economy of all medium-duty vehicles in the fleet.

(5) Average fuel economy of all heavy-duty vehicles in the fleet.

(6) Type of fuel or power source including, but not limited to, electricity used.

(7) Average cost per gallon, or gallon equivalent of fuel.

(8) Average fuel cost per mile.

(9) Annual miles driven per vehicle.

(10) Total fuel or power consumption per vehicle.

(11) Vehicle function, such as the tasks associated with the vehicle's use.

(b) Fleet managers from state departments and agencies shall be responsible for providing baseline data in a reliable and verifiable manner. The data shall be submitted to the Green Fleets Review Committee established in Section 41-17A-6 for use in measuring progress toward the goals outlined in Section 41-17A-4.

(Act 2009-650, p. 1999, §3.)

Section 41-17A-4

Average fleet fuel economy improvement.

(a) Except as otherwise provided under this section, the average fleet fuel economy for light-duty vehicles shall be increased by four percent per fiscal year, rounded to the nearest 1/10 mile per gallon, beginning November 21, 2009.

(b) Except as otherwise provided under this section, the average fleet fuel economy for medium-duty vehicles shall be increased by three percent per fiscal year, rounded to the nearest 1/10 mile per gallon, beginning November 21, 2009.

(c) Except as otherwise provided under this section, the average fleet fuel economy for heavy-duty vehicles shall be increased by two percent per fiscal year, rounded to the nearest 1/10 mile per gallon, beginning November 21, 2009.

(d) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (a), (b), and (c), the Green Fleets Review Committee may prescribe a lower average fuel economy percentage improvement for a specific fiscal year if the committee determines that the standards prescribed pursuant to subsections (a), (b), or (c) are neither of the following:

- (1) Technologically achievable.
- (2) Cost effective, as demonstrated by clear evidence.

(e) If a lower percentage fuel economy improvement is prescribed for a specific fiscal year under subsection (d), that percentage increase shall be the maximum increase that is both of the following:

- (1) Technologically achievable.
- (2) Cost effective.

(f) In determining cost effectiveness under this section, the committee shall take into account the total value to the nation of reduced petroleum use, including the value of reducing external costs of petroleum use, using a value for such costs equal to 25 percent of the value of a gallon of gasoline saved.

(g) In addition to determining cost effectiveness under this section, reducing harmful emissions and greenhouse gases created by the production and use of a fuel source

shall be the second primary criteria taken into account by the committee. Whenever a fleet is taking into consideration a new fuel, the fuel provider shall submit U.S. Department of Energy statistics showing the life cycle emissions per gallon gasoline equivalent for the green fleet manager to submit to the committee.

(Act 2009-650, p. 1999, §4.)

Section 41-17A-5

Procurement policies.

(a) In order to accomplish the goals stated in Section 41-17A-4, the State of Alabama shall modify procurement procedures, implement policies, conduct reviews, and take other actions as provided in this section.

(b) The following shall be the official policies of the State of Alabama pursuant to this chapter:

(1) To purchase, lease, or otherwise obtain or procure the most energy efficient vehicles possible that meet the operational needs of the department or agency for which the vehicles are intended by using life cycle costing as a method of determining the most cost efficient vehicles for the departments or agencies.

(2) To manage and operate its fleets in a manner that is energy efficient, that minimizes emissions, and that reduces petroleum dependency by utilizing specified proven technology identified by the Green Fleets Review Committee.

(3) To review every new vehicle purchase request and modify as necessary to ensure that the vehicle class to which the requesting vehicle belongs is appropriate for the duty requirements that the vehicle will be called upon to perform.

(4) To review the fleet inventory data required by Section 41-17A-3 to identify older vehicles that are not used or used infrequently, as well as those vehicles that are disproportionately inefficient, and schedule their elimination or replacement by determining the most cost effective methodology of establishing surplus inventory within all departments and agencies.

(5) To implement an anti-idling policy prohibiting state employees from idling all state-owned or operated vehicles for an excessive period of time.

(6) To implement educational programs for state employees to drive efficiently and utilize efficient vehicle operating techniques.

(7) To maintain vehicles at optimal efficiency by reviewing current maintenance schedules for all fleet vehicles and increasing or decreasing maintenance wherever cost-effective benefits will accrue as a result.

(8) To encourage carpooling and vanpooling by state employees by allowing commuter fees to be paid out of pretax income withholding as allowed by federal tax laws to help reduce fuel consumption, pollution, traffic, and parking congestion.

(Act 2009-650, p. 1999, §5.)

Section 41-17A-6

Green Fleets Review Committee.

(a) In order to ensure compliance with the goals outlined in Section 41-17A-4, as well as to monitor the actions outlined in Section 41-17A-5, a Green Fleets Review Committee is created. The Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy will appoint the members of the Green Fleets Review Committee. The membership of the committee shall reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural and economic diversity of the state. The Chair of the Green Fleets Review Committee may create advisory subcommittees and appoint members thereto, which may include members of the Green Fleets Review Committee, representatives from governmental agencies, and members of the public with interest and expertise in the objectives of the committee. The Green Fleets Review Committee shall create no more than two active advisory subcommittees at any given time unless the committee votes unanimously for additional subcommittees.

(b) The committee shall thereafter meet at the call of the chair or any majority of the members thereof; provided, that the committee shall meet at least once each four months. The committee shall have a continuing existence and may meet, act, and conduct its business at any place within this state during the sessions of the Legislature or any recess thereof, and in the interim period between sessions.

(c) Each legislative member of the committee or any subcommittee, if created, shall be entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, his or her per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting of the committee. Upon requisitions signed by the chair of the committee or subcommittees, these payments shall be paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the Comptroller on the State Treasury. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no member shall receive additional legislative compensation or per diem when the Legislature is in session or if a member is being paid any other payments on the same dates for attendance on other state business. The total legislative expenditures of the committee shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per fiscal year.

(d) On an annual basis, all state department and agency fleet managers shall submit a draft of their green fleets plan to the State Equipment Management Coordinator, or the Department of Finance designee for this position, and the Green Fleets Review Committee detailing how vehicle procurement, fleet operations, and employee travel activity are intended to conform to the green fleet policies and strategies outlined in Section 41-17A-5. Each green fleets plan submitted shall also include, as an appendix

or addendum, an updated fleet vehicle inventory list in the same format as the fleet vehicle inventory required by Section 41-17A-3.

(e) Each green fleets plan shall be reviewed by the State Equipment Management Coordinator, or the Department of Finance designee for this position, and the committee for overall conformity with the policies and for completeness in addressing the green fleets strategies. Inadequate plans shall be returned to the submitting department or agency for revision and discussion with the committee.

(f) Any appeal of the committee's decisions must be made in writing to the committee accompanied by appropriate documentation. Valid reasons for an appeal include unavailability of appropriate fleet vehicles, incremental costs in excess of the full life-cycle savings that would accrue from the acquisition of a given vehicle, and the primacy of a given vehicle's mission to public safety or a similar area judged to be applicable by the committee.

(g) Approval of vehicle procurement requests for each department or agency is contingent upon a satisfactory recommendation from the State Fleet Manager as to the merit of the department's or agency's green fleets plan.

(h) The most innovative green fleets plan implemented shall receive recognition in an annual award to the department or agency submitting the most innovative plan. The committee shall determine the recipient of the award during the annual green fleets review meeting.

(Act 2009-650, p. 1999, §6.)