

Title: Green Fleet
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Responsibility: General Manager City Operations
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1	21\908	26/03/2013	Adopted
2			
3			

1 Policy Summary

City of Darwin is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by reducing its fleet related greenhouse gas emissions.

In greening its fleet, Council will investigate the viability of new initiatives such as new hybrids, battery hybrid-electric and pure electric vehicles.

2 Policy Objectives

This policy outlines the minimum standards vehicles purchased by Council must meet with the intention of reducing Council's carbon footprint.

The standards in this report are based on the Australian Government's Green Vehicle Guide.

A key objective of this policy is to maintain Council's leadership position in reducing greenhouse gas emissions whilst ensuring vehicles are fit for purpose.

This policy applies to all light commercial and passenger vehicles and not the heavy vehicles in Council's fleet.

3 Background

Globally, the increase in transportation is causing a major obstacle in reducing carbon emissions at all levels of government. However, it also offers governments a tangible opportunity to reduce their carbon footprint through the adoption of a Green Fleet Policy.

The City of Darwin's fleet represents a significant investment, both in terms of financial and natural resources. Council has undertaken numerous initiatives to promote and develop more sustainable forms of fleet management to increase operational efficiency, reduce costs, minimise harmful emissions and support more sustainable economic development.

These include:

- Replacing fleet passenger vehicles with hybrids;

- Use of alternative fuels including biodiesel;
- Introduction of hybrid trucks;
- Introduction of new automated fuel dispensing at the Operations Centre; and
- Reporting system for accurate fuel reporting by class of vehicle and driver.

Council has demonstrated commitment to reducing its transport-related emissions and overall footprint in its Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan including the following:

Goal

3 Environmentally Sustainable City

Outcome

3.1 Council's carbon footprint reduced

Key Strategies

3.1.1 Reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions

Council's Climate Change Action Plan further outlines its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, in particular its fleet and transport related impact.

4 Policy Statement

City of Darwin refers to the Australian Government's Green Vehicle Guide for guidance on vehicle emissions and greenhouse ratings.

This policy applies to all light commercial and passenger vehicles.

As vehicles are replaced, newly purchased vehicles for the City of Darwin must meet the following greenhouse ratings:

- 7.5 for passenger vehicles (e.g. Toyota Camry Hybrid, Honda Insight)
- 6.5 for executive officer vehicles (e.g. Hyundai Santa Fe, Holden Wagon SV),
- 5.5 for non-four wheel drive (4WD) light commercial vehicles ¹ (e.g. Ford Dual Cab, Toyota Hilux)

This policy provides for the continuation of existing vehicle arrangements within Executive Officer Contract Packages. The Policy will be applied in the appointment of a new Executive to any vacancy.

All vehicles must meet a mandatory minimum Australian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) safety rating of 4 stars for all non-4WD passenger vehicles. Council's fleet replacement practice for light commercial and passenger vehicles is replacement at 60,000km or three years. It is expected that Council's entire commercial and passenger fleet will be compliant with the greenhouse target by May 2014.

The eligibility of private and commuter use of vehicles is subject to terms and conditions of individual appointments to Council and not this policy.

¹ Inline with the Northern Territory Government's *Greening the Fleet Strategy* <http://www.dob.nt.gov.au/services-government/fleet/Pages/greening-fleet.aspx>

5 Legislation, terminology and references

Green Vehicle Guide (GVG)	An interactive website maintained by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Transport. It provides information about the greenhouse gas performance of vehicles (up to 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass) sold in Australia. http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au
Battery hybrid electric vehicles	Vehicles which use a combination of batteries and fuel to propel the car.
Light commercial vehicle	Designed for the purpose of load carrying. Includes dual range 4WD sports utility vehicles (SUVs)
Passenger vehicle	Designed for the purpose of carrying passengers. Includes 2WD sports utility vehicles (SUVs) and all wheel drive (AWD) vehicles.
Pure electric vehicles	Vehicles which use only a battery for propulsion. Often referred to as 'plug-ins' or battery electric vehicles.

6 Implementation and delegation

Fleet Management is responsible for the implementing this policy including the following actions:

- Promote the policy across Council;
- Provide technical advice, operational guidelines and practical support to operational areas;
- Ensure that vehicle purchasing decisions are based on a combination of fit-for-purpose requirements i.e. operational needs and greenhouse gas ratings; and
- Continuing investigation on new ways to green the fleet.

7 Evaluation and review

Introducing the new Policy will ensure Council continues to reduce its carbon footprint by increasing the greenhouse ratings of its vehicle fleet.

Council's greenhouse gas performance is reported on in its Annual Report.

This policy is to be reviewed once in each term of a Council.