



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

Monthly Energy/Efficiency and Sustainability TIP SHEET January 2012

As part of its City Charter-defined mission to advise the Mayor and Common Council on environmental issues affecting the City, the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission submits a monthly "tip sheet" on a timely topic for information, review and consideration. This month's tip sheet showcases Lexington-Fayette Urban County and City of Olympia, WA vehicle fleet sustainability programs.

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) has 60 gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles – currently the largest fleet of hybrid vehicles in Kentucky. These vehicles get about twice the mileage of the vehicles they replaced. The City of Lexington also instituted a strict "No Idling Policy" for government vehicles to help reduce carbon emissions. All gasoline and diesel powered vehicles and equipment will idle only as necessary to perform required duties or essential functions.

On a similar front, the LFUCG has steadily increased its use of biodiesel fuel since a 2006 initiative coordinated by Lexington MPO staff and done under the Bluegrass Partnership for A Green Community umbrella.

Each year, the City's 60 hybrids produce 13,900 fewer pounds of carbon monoxide, 2,195 fewer pounds of hydrocarbons, and 995 fewer pounds of nitrogen oxides than 60 conventionally powered vehicles.

In order for the City of Olympia to address one of its biggest energy consumers, its vehicle fleet, the city established a "Green Fleet Policy" that stresses optimizing the way the fleet's vehicles are used, purchasing energy efficient vehicles, and changing driving behavior in order to limit miles driven. This involved reorganizing which vehicles performed what functions to ensure that vehicles were appropriately sized to the jobs they used for, reorganizing vehicle schedules and routes, and designing customized multi-purpose vehicles.

Fleet Operations also developed an anti-idling program, a tire pressure program, and an employee education program. The policy also dictates that each department, with help from the Fleet Operations Supervisor, must develop an annual Green Fleets Plan detailing how it will conform with the policy through vehicle procurement, department fleet operations, fleet operations performance measures, and employee travel activities.

Thanks to this long-term approach, over seven years, the City has been able to reduce its fleet size by almost 20%. Between 2004 and 2009 the City reduced unleaded fuel use by 15 percent, saving 17,719 gallons of gas and \$49,274. The City also saved money on vehicle maintenance, upkeep and purchasing as a result of right-sizing its fleet.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the tip sheet please contact Joe Gardella (Interim Chair, BEMC) at gardella@buffalo.edu or Dennis Sutton (BEMC support staff) at dsutton@city-buffalo.com.

BEMC members are willing to promote implementation of these programs in the City of Buffalo. BEMC meets the third Wednesday of every month, 8:00 AM, 901 City Hall. The BEMC web site address is:

http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices/Environmental_Management_Commission