

GREEN FLEETS

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The Town of Glastonbury



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INTRODUCTION

The Town of Glastonbury continues to expand its purchase of environmentally friendly products. A big part of those purchases are vehicles and vehicle fuels.

The focus of this bulletin is on the Town of Glastonbury's fleet administration and the continued effort to add gasoline/electric hybrids and natural gas vehicles to the fleet, to use biodiesel, ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD), and to implement a nitrogen gas tire filling station and a natural gas fueling station. Anti-idling procedures, carpooling, refined winter storm operating procedures and improved work scheduling have also contributed towards program improvements.

GLASTONBURY'S FLEETS ARE GOING GREEN



The Town of Glastonbury fleet inventory currently includes the following alternative fuel vehicles:

- ☞ 2 Honda Civic sedan hybrids
- ☞ 1 CNG-powered Dial-A-Ride Ford E-450 passenger van
- ☞ 2 Honda Civic CNG-powered sedans

In addition, the entire diesel fleet of more than 150 vehicles/equipment are fueled by an ULSD/biodiesel blend.

The Town of Glastonbury Fleet Maintenance Department recommends, manages and maintains vehicles for the Town. This includes everything from police patrol cars to heavy-duty dump trucks and equipment. Fleet has been successful in finding ways to make these diverse vehicles operate in a more environmentally friendly manner by outlining strategies to reduce fuel consumption and implementing the use of alternative fuels.

Increase use of alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles – The Town added two hybrid gasoline/electric sedans to the fleet in 2005. As more vehicles are replaced with hybrid and advanced technology vehicles, the Town estimates that it can reduce vehicle emissions and fuel use by 30 to 50 percent per vehicle.

In 2006, the Town, along with the Glastonbury Board of Education, implemented the use of biodiesel fuel in heavy-duty fleet equipment and school buses. The percentage of biodiesel can range from 5 to 20 percent

depending on the season and the application. Most diesel engine manufactures recommend up to a 5 percent biodiesel blend; with further testing, higher percentages can be expected in the future. The addition of premium ULSD, which is required by regulation, was also added in October of 2006.

A natural gas fueling station was installed at the Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center (RCC) in 2008. This station currently supports one Dial-A-Ride van and two sedans with the planned addition of a second Dial-A-Ride van in 2009. In addition to the health benefits of clean-burning natural gas, improved operating efficiency and vehicle maintenance will be gained. State and federal incentive rebates on the cost of the fuel and incremental costs of the vehicles has also assisted the Town to implement this program.

These changes have reduced fuel emissions in vehicles used to transport school children, seniors, public works employees, as well as other town staff.

Increase fuel efficiency in Town-operated vehicles – The implementation of a nitrogen gas tire filling station in January of 2007 has the potential of many benefits, including improved mileage, longer tire life, increased performance and safety, and reduced operating costs. Equipment manufacturers estimate an increased tire life of up to 25%. An added benefit to improved tire inflation is improved gas mileage – by as much as 6% in some cases. Nitrogen-inflated tires minimize blowouts and improve vehicle handling through proper inflation and consistently maintained pressure. Nitrogen is a dry gas with no corrosive properties as found in compressed air.

The Town implemented anti-idling strategies for all its vehicles and encourages the use of carpools to meetings. Refined winter operating procedures and improved work scheduling are continually being reviewed.

The Town of Glastonbury is proud to be a member of the *Connecticut Clean Cities* coalition since 2007. The Town, along with other communities and organizations, supports common goals such as promoting cleaner air technologies and the displacement of petroleum. The Town received the *Leadership Award* from Connecticut Clean Cities in October of 2008 for promoting the use of alternative fuels and vehicles.

Other green fleet practices – The Fleet Maintenance Department currently recycles waste oil, anti-freeze and vehicle batteries. The waste oil and anti-freeze are recycled utilizing a licensed vendor which processes the product for other uses. The vehicle batteries are returned to the distributor.

Oil filters, Speedi-Dri and oil-absorbent pads are properly disposed of through a licensed disposal company. These items are not disposed of in the normal waste stream, thus reducing the contamination of our landfills.

The use of synthetic automatic transmission fluid extends the interval for fluid changes, thus reducing the amount of waste oil.

LED warning lights are installed on police cruisers, snow removal trucks and equipment, and various other Town vehicles. For additional information, please see Bulletin No. 4, *Fuel Misers*.

The utilization of retreaded tires (when possible) vs. purchasing new tires saves our taxpayer dollars and reduces the quantity of tire casings disposed of.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on related topics, please see the following Glastonbury Goes Green Bulletins:

- ✧ [GPS Vehicle Tracking & Monitoring](#)
- ✧ [Clear Lane Deicer and Salt Brine Production/Application](#)

GLASTONBURY'S GREEN INITIATIVES PROGRAM

Glastonbury's Green Initiatives program operates under the direction of the Town Manager. The committee is chaired by the Purchasing Agent and the Superintendent of Sanitation. Committee members from across Town departments participate and contribute ideas and suggestions committed to a "greener" community.

The committee assembles information about products and services and makes the information available to specific departments that can evaluate them and develop applications in Town projects with the approval of the Town Manager.

These "Go-Green" bulletins contain information about the results of product evaluations and other accomplishments of Town departments. We hope this information can provide you insight to the Town's green initiatives and also lead others in the community to find ways to use environmentally preferable products. Please contact us if we can help you with further information or if you have additional suggestions. ■

