

Local Law Number 8 Of 2023

County Of Ulster

A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 131, Vehicles, County, Article I, Sustainable Green Fleet Policy, In Relation To Strategies And Goals

BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the County of Ulster, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section § 131-2, Definitions, of the Code of the County of Ulster shall be amended to read as follows:

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

GREEN VEHICLE

Refers to any vehicle that employs technology that reduces fuel consumption or emissions and shall include, but is not limited to, vehicles that have electric drive trains (EVs), hybrid-electric, and hybrid vehicles that use both a rechargeable energy storage system and combustible fuel (HVs).

HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE

Any motor vehicle, licensed for use on roadways, having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds.

LIGHT-DUTY TRUCK

Any motor vehicle, with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 6,000 pounds or less, which is designed primarily for purposes of transportation of property or is a derivative of such a vehicle, or is available with special features enabling off-street or off-highway operation and use.

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.

PASSENGER VEHICLE

Any motor vehicle designed primarily for the transportation of persons and having a design capacity of 12 persons or less.

ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE

Refers to any vehicle that does not produce greenhouse gas emissions while driving, per the US Environmental Protection Agency's Fuel Economy and Environment rating methodology in which a vehicle's tailpipe carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are rated in grams per mile for combined city and highway driving.

SECTION 2. Section § 131-5, Green fleet policy strategies, of the Code of the County of Ulster shall be amended to read as follows:

In order to accomplish the goals stated in § 131-4 above, the following policies shall be implemented:

A. Include a minimum efficiency standard in miles per gallon (or gallon equivalent) for each vehicle class for which the County has a procurement specification for and include such a standard in any new vehicle procurement specification.

B. Include a minimum emissions standard for each vehicle class for which the County has a procurement specification for and include such a standard in any new vehicle procurement specifications.

C. Ensure a minimum of 20% of the fleet by 2025 are green vehicles with at least 20% of those being zero-emission. Thereafter, annually, 100% of passenger and light duty truck vehicles purchased, leased or otherwise obtained will be zero-emission vehicles where technically feasible. Zero-emission vehicles that qualify in another vehicle weight class may, for the purposes of this requirement, qualify as a passenger vehicle on a one-vehicle-for-one-vehicle basis.

Additionally, ensure:

- all fleet passenger and light-duty truck vehicles are zero-emission by 2035
- all transit fleet vehicles are zero-emission by 2035
- all non-road equipment is zero-emission by 2035, where technically feasible
- all fleet medium and heavy-duty vehicles are zero-emission by 2040, where technically feasible

D. Review all vehicle procurement specifications and modify them as necessary to ensure that the specifications are written in a manner flexible enough to allow the purchase or lease of green vehicles.

E. Review every new vehicle purchase request and modify them 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.

F. Review the fleet inventory taken in § 131-3 above to identify older vehicles that are used infrequently (or not at all), as well as those vehicles that are disproportionately inefficient, and schedule their elimination or replacement.

G. Implement a program that will train County employees to drive efficiently and utilize efficient operating techniques such as route optimization.

H. Reduce motor vehicle use by the utilization of fleet-management software, optimizing vehicle use, the selection of the right vehicle for the employees' tasks, and encourage transit use, bicycle riding, walking, and ride sharing and telecommuting where feasible.

I. Maximize efficiency of the vehicles by having them regularly maintained and checking tire pressure and keeping them aerodynamic (putting racks, ladders and tools on vehicle roofs only when necessary).

J. Procure and utilize zero-emission vehicles when their use is appropriate to the application.

K. Purchase the right size vehicle for the job.

L. Keep apprised of the technological advances and product innovations for fleet vehicles, such as, but not limited to, the use of low-rolling-resistance tires and using nitrogen to inflate tires.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This law shall be effective upon filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.