Town of Dedham/ Dedham Public Schools **ZERO EMISSION FIRST VEHICLE POLICY**	
Effective Date	
Revisions	
Select Board Approval Date	
School Superintendent Approval Date	

PREAMBLE

Whereby unanimous declaration of the Select Board and School Committee the Town has pledged to reduce its municipal energy use by 97% using a 2022 baseline as required by Dedham's participation in the Climate Leader Communities, which is an advancement from the Green Communities Program established by the Green Communities Act M.G.L. Chapter 25A Section 10.

Whereby the Town adopted a goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero by 2050, 85% below a 2022 baseline by 2040, and 33% below this baseline by 2030.

Whereby Dedham's Climate Action & Resiliency Plan (CA&RP) calls on the Town to:

- "Transition municipal fleet to electric or renewable fuel vehicles."
- "Reduction in vehicle-miles-traveled (VMTs);" and
- "Require new development projects (residential and commercial) to incorporate electric vehicle charging infrastructure and parking spaces."

Therefore, we the Dedham Select Board, School Committee, and Sustainability Advisory Committee do hereby approve the following Zero-Emission-Vehicle-First Fleet Policy.

I. DEFINITIONS

a) **Acquisition** - In the context of this guideline, acquisition refers to the purchase or lease of on-road vehicles (whether used or new) by and for the Town of Dedham either to replace an existing fleet vehicle or to expand a fleet.

b) **Alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs)** - Dedicated, flexible fuel, or dual-fuel vehicles designed to operate on at least one alternative fuel (such as electricity, biodiesel, propane, or natural gas) to reduce carbon emissions.

c) **Battery electric vehicle (BEV)** – An electric vehicle that draws propulsion energy solely from an on-board electrical energy storage device during operation that is charged from an external source of electricity.

d) **Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) or electric vehicle charging station** – An electric component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles by permitting the transfer of electric energy to a battery or other storage device in an electric vehicle.
e) **Exempt vehicles** - Vehicles that are exempt from the Green Communities Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy include off-road vehicles, motorcycles and heavy-duty vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 8,500 pounds. Examples include fire engines, ambulances, and some public works vehicles.
f) **Fleet vehicles** - In the context of this guideline, it refers to on road vehicle assets owned or leased and operated by the Town of Dedham.
g) **Fuel-cell electric vehicle (FCEV or FCV)** - An electric vehicle that draws propulsion energy solely from an on-board energy storage device during operation, where energy stored as hydrogen is converted to electricity by a fuel cell, that is recharged from an external source of hydrogen.
h) **Fuel Efficient Vehicle (FEV) Policy** - Issued by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to fulfill the requirements of the Green Communities Act. The FEV Policy requires designated Green Communities to acquire fuel-efficient vehicles; applies to all light-duty vehicle acquisitions with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8,500 pounds or less.
i) **Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)** - The maximum safe operating weight of a vehicle, as specified by the manufacturer, including passenger and cargo loads.
j) **Heavy-duty vehicle** – A vehicle with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 8,500 pounds.
k) **Hybrid electric vehicle (HEV)** - Powered by an internal combustion engine and a small electric motor that uses energy stored in a battery. Under light load, for instance during initial acceleration, only electricity is consumed. The vehicle is typically fueled with gasoline to operate the internal combustion engine, and the battery is charged through the engine and regenerative braking, not by plugging in.
l) **Light-duty vehicle**– A vehicle with a GVWR of less than 8,500 pounds.
m) **Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)** – An electric vehicle with an on-board electrical energy storage device that can be recharged from an external source of electricity and that also has the capability to run on another fuel.
n) **Telematics** - A system that is installed in a vehicle that records and transmits information about the vehicle such as the current odometer, maintenance needs, and fuel/electricity consumption.
o) **Zero emission vehicle (ZEV)** – Zero emission vehicles include battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and fuel-cell electric vehicles; if the most

recent definition of ZEVs per the Massachusetts Zero Emission Vehicle Commission diverges from this scope, the Commission definition shall take precedence.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Zero-Emission First Vehicle Policy is to set standards and guidelines for the purchase, operation, and maintenance of the Dedham fleet vehicles that will advance the economic, energy, and climate sustainability of municipal operations by achieving long-term reductions in energy costs, energy consumption, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The primary objectives of this policy are to:

- Accelerate the adoption of emission-reduction technologies and the transition of the fleet to all electric or other environmentally advantageous vehicles
- Minimize the long-term environmental and financial impacts of fleet vehicles
- Optimize the composition of the fleet to achieve maximum fuel efficiency
- Advance the installation of electric charging infrastructure across municipal facilities
- Prioritize the utilization of grants, rebates, and incentives to support the acquisition of vehicles and technologies that will improve efficiency and reduce GHG emissions.

This policy shall not require a department to take any action which conflicts with local, state, or federal requirements nor does it mandate the procurement of products that do not perform adequately for their intended use, exclude adequate purchasing competition, or require the purchase of vehicles that are not commercially available or practicable.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all divisions and departments of the Town of Dedham. It applies to road-worthy passenger vehicles, pick up and utility trucks, and SUVs. It does not apply to specialized equipment or off-road vehicles.

IV. Exemption Policy for Specialized Municipal Vehicles

While the Town of Dedham is committed to prioritizing electric vehicles (EVs) for all municipal fleet purchases and leases, we recognize that certain vehicle types currently lack viable electric alternatives due to technological, operational, or market limitations. Therefore, the following exemptions are established:

1. Department of Public Works (DPW)

- Heavy-duty vehicles such as dump trucks, snowplows, street sweepers, and other specialized equipment may be exempt from the EV-first requirement if:
- No commercially available electric model meets the operational needs of the department.
- The vehicle's duty cycle, payload, or terrain requirements exceed current EV capabilities.

2. Fire Department

Emergency response vehicles, including fire engines, ladder trucks, and rescue units, may be exempt if:

- No electric alternatives are available that meet NFPA standards and emergency response requirements.
- The vehicle must be compatible with existing infrastructure and mutual aid protocols.

3. Police Department

Patrol vehicles and other law enforcement units may be exempt if:

- No electric models meet the performance, durability, or equipment integration needs of the department.
- The vehicle is required for specialized operations (e.g., K-9 units, tactical response).

Conditions for Exemption

All exemptions must be:

- **Documented** with justification for why an electric alternative is not feasible at the time of purchase.
- **Reviewed annually** to assess market developments and the availability of suitable EV models.

- **Reevaluated** at the time of vehicle replacement or lease renewal.

Departments are encouraged to consider hybrid or low-emission alternatives when full electrification is not possible and to remain engaged with emerging technologies and pilot programs.

V. GUIDELINES VEHICLE PROCUREMENT

Electric-First Procurement

Vehicle procurement should be prioritized as follows:

1. Battery-electric vehicle (BEV)
2. Plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV)
3. Hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) or other alternative fuel vehicle (AFV)
4. Standard vehicle operated by an internal combustion engine fueled by fossil fuels

The fleet policy is electric-first, meaning that electric vehicles shall be prioritized when the (town or school district) purchases or leases light-duty vehicles for its operations, followed by plug-in hybrid vehicles, then hybrid electric or other alternative fuel vehicle.

Fuel-efficient requirements for standard vehicles

If it is determined that a ZEV does not meet operational needs, the purchased or leased vehicle must be the most fuel-efficient class, drive train, and model available that will fulfill the intended municipal function. When determining the most fuel-efficient vehicle for a given class, the municipality will utilize the fuel efficiency limits contained in the most recent guidance for the Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy established by DOER's Green Communities Division.

I. These limits are based on the most recently published U.S. Environmental Protection Agency combined city and highway MPG ratings (see www.fueleconomy.gov). The EPA maintains a database on vehicle fuel efficiency that is updated throughout the year as new models are released.

VI. Zero-Emission First Replacement Plan

All vehicles shall be replaced following the electric-first hierarchy as indicated by this policy. Vehicles shall be replaced when they are no longer operable and will not be recycled from one municipal department to another unless the recycled replacement is more efficient than the vehicle it is replacing. In addition, when considering vehicle replacement, the function of the vehicle will be reviewed for potential replacement with a more fuel-efficient vehicle, including a zero-emission non-exempt vehicle.

A) Electric Vehicle Charging

Where possible, efforts will be made to install charging equipment at locations convenient for vehicle users to minimize operational inefficiencies. However, flexibility may be required of vehicle operators and Town staff to adjust procedures to accommodate charging locations.

B) Funding

The purchase of policy-compliant vehicles and equipment may be more expensive in the initial years. Departments should estimate the upfront investment required for vehicle purchases and budget accordingly in capital budget requests.

The Town shall evaluate existing capital requests for vehicles and evaluate opportunities to fund additional upfront costs.

The Town shall take advantage of grant funding to offset the upfront costs of electric vehicles and charging apparatus.

VII. VEHICLE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Where applicable, the Town will use available resources to build awareness and educate its employees regarding responsible vehicle operation as detailed below.

a) Anti-idling

Vehicle idling produces both excessive waste of fuel and air pollution. As a part of this policy the Town hereby recognizes the importance of enforcing the existing Anti-Idling Law, as allowed by M.G.L. Chapter 90 Section 16A, and Dedham's Anti-Idling violation fine. Additionally, Town staff should reduce idling as much as possible in

vehicle operations. The Town will also incorporate anti-idling education into other public health and sustainability forums.

b) Reinforce operator awareness

The Town and its employees will encourage energy-saving driving habits (i.e., awareness of sudden acceleration or sudden stopping), and regular preventative maintenance of vehicles.

c) Reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMTs)

The Town will reinforce employee awareness of vehicle miles travelled during work hours as well as for commuting, and will encourage alternative travel practices such as carpools, vanpools, bicycling, and walking.

d) Vehicle maintenance

A well-maintained vehicle will optimize fuel use and reduce air pollution. Preventative maintenance that ensures optimal vehicle operation shall be performed regularly for each vehicle. Vehicles will be inspected regularly and prior to extended use to ensure correct tire pressure, oil, and coolant levels, and to identify possible signs of other fluid leaks.

The Town will dispose of hazardous materials such as waste oil, lubricants, antifreeze, and batteries safely through environmentally responsible practices and in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

VIII. Questions / Enforcement

All other inquiries should be directed to the department/division responsible for fleet management and/or fleet procurement. This policy is enforced by the Town Manager and/or his/her designee(s).