

State of Colorado



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State Fleet Management statement on reducing vehicle miles in State-owned vehicles

Summary:

State Fleet Management supports reducing fuel waste and minimizing environmental impact by limiting unnecessary vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in State-owned vehicles.

BACKGROUND:

The Greening Government Executive Orders call upon state employees to take a position of leadership in the New Energy Economy by reducing the environmental impact of state government operations.

Executive Order D 0011 07 mandates a 25% volumetric reduction in petroleum consumption by state vehicles by June 30, 2012. This reduction is measured against a fiscal year 2005-06 baseline, while increasing the energy efficiency of the fleet (excluding law enforcement, emergency response, road maintenance, and highway construction).

Executive Order D 0012 07 directs all state departments and agencies to aggressively pursue achievement of this standard using all necessary strategies and initiatives, including:

- Restricting the purchase of four-wheel drive sport utility vehicles, except where necessary for law enforcement, emergency response, highway maintenance and construction or use in difficult terrain; All four-wheel drive vehicles require a Departments Executive Director pre-approval prior to SFM processing the vehicle order.
- Giving priority to replacement of pre-1996 light duty vehicles that have a city fuel efficiency rating of less than 25 miles per gallon; and
- Acquiring hybrid gas/electric high efficiency vehicles, alternative and flex fuel vehicles, and other fuel efficient/low emission vehicles whenever practicable.

- All state vehicle operators need to complete the Vehicle Users Survey found at: <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/surveys/fleet.htm>
This tool is used to help evaluate and update the vehicle specifications, types, and configurations, based on the parameters of how the agency needs to use the vehicle to perform state services. SFM utilizes this collected data that helps us to assure continuous improvements to the replaced vehicles by engineering the vehicle design to improve vehicle operating efficiencies based on the severity of usage requirements.

According to the U.S. EPA, vehicles emit millions of tons of pollutants in the air each year, some of which are classified as toxic. The burning of fossil fuels also contributes to the release of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere, which many scientists believe contribute to the warming of the planet and can have an effect on global weather patterns. Pollution control measures have drastically reduced emissions from vehicles in the past 20 years; however, during that same time the total miles traveled has doubled, resulting in higher levels of air pollutants in many parts of the country. In 2005, the state of Colorado's fleet alone burned over 4.2 million gallons of fuel in its vehicles, leading to the addition of 84 million pounds of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere.

As with any conservation measure, using fewer resources means lower costs. The State can expect to save money by using less fuel. Moreover, fewer vehicle miles traveled means less wear and tear on vehicles, thus reducing costs of maintenance and replacement items, such as tires.

The Greening Government Executive Orders D 0011 07 and D 0012 07 require state government to reduce petroleum consumption by 25% by June 30, 2012 from baseline SFY 2005-06. Thus, the following actions are recommended to reduce miles driven in state fleet vehicles, thereby reducing the consumption of petroleum:

- Establish a VMT Reduction Target.
- Initiate a daily trip log for all drivers in state fleet vehicles.
 - Log reviewed by agency Fleet Coordinators.
 - Document and review established routine vehicle routes and combine if possible.
 - Research the feasibility of installing mounted global positioning systems (GPS) in state fleet vehicles to improve the routing and efficiency of state vehicles.
- Enable the use of video, audio, teleconferencing, and other web tools in lieu of driving to meetings; this is especially pertinent when meetings are four hours or less. The list of teleconference sites is available at the following website link: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DPA-DCS/PA/1200535985059>

- The Avoided Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Log, is listed on the same SFM webpage, and can be used to log and track a state agencies avoided miles that resulted from using other options such as telecommuting, teleconferencing, carpooling, RTD, or any means of transportation that avoided using a state vehicle. (The password for this site is Meeting)

Logging these avoided miles, will help an agency to justify the reasons why a vehicle did not meet the minimum utilization requirement that is reported annually. The vehicles that do not meet annual minimum mileage utilization requirements, and do not log their avoided miles, may be in question regarding to what the extent the vehicle is needed.

- The State Fleet Management Trip Optimizer can be found at the bottom of the SFM webpage at:
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DPA-DCS/PA/1199264707392>

This tool is designed to evaluate the cost effectiveness of your trip based on the options of using a motor pool vehicle, your permanent department assigned state vehicle, or mileage reimbursement to use your personal vehicle.

- Require all drivers to utilize State Fleet Management's Mileage Reduction Tool whenever one carpools, telecommutes, or teleconferences instead of driving a state vehicle for work related purposes. This can be found at the aforementioned website.
- Institute a VMT Reduction Policy outreach and education program to all state fleet vehicle operators.
- Promote the use of public transportation and the use of the RTD Eco Pass. Utilize the RTD skyRide to Denver International Airport, rather than using a state vehicle or reimbursement of mileage and parking expense.