Executive Order 2018-02: Green Fleet

An Executive Order directing City departments to accelerate a transition to a clean and green City fleet.

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes that climate change represents a grave and significant threat to ourselves and our posterity; and

WHEREAS, responding to the threat of climate change with aggressive action to reduce pollution not only provides public health and economic benefit but is also morally just; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump removed the United States of America from the Paris Climate Accord and abandoned the international agreement; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 31757 affirmed Seattle’s commitment to meet or exceed the goals of the Paris Climate Accord regardless of President Trump’s morally reprehensible action; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that Seattle does our part under the Paris Climate Accord, my administration has developed actions to build on the 2013 Climate Action Plan and create a significant reduction in carbon pollution; and

WHEREAS, the window for meaningful action is fast closing and the imperative to act locally has never been more pressing; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector accounts for over two-thirds of Seattle’s core greenhouse gas emissions, which are the main driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Drive Clean Seattle initiative to transition the transportation sector from fossil fuels to clean electricity is an important and vital component of our climate strategy; and

WHEREAS, the City is a leader in fleet electrification with over 200 plug-in electric vehicles, hundreds of conventional hybrid vehicles, and the largest government-owned EV charging hub; and

WHEREAS, electric vehicles have resulted in substantial fuel savings for the city; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance and Administrative Services, Fleet Management Division, provides centralized fleet services for the City including engineering, design, procurement, maintenance,
disposition, fueling, and motor pool services for City agencies per Section 3.126.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JENNY A. DURKAN, Mayor of Seattle, hereby affirm the City’s commitment to climate action and order the following actions to accelerate Seattle’s transition to a clean and green municipal fleet and away from dirty fossil fuels. To this end, I direct City departments to adopt the following:

Section 1: Drive Clean Seattle Green Fleet Action Plan.

A. The Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) is directed to work with the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) and the Drive Clean Seattle Green Fleet Interdepartmental Team to prepare a new Drive Clean Seattle Green Fleet Action Plan (“plan”) to accelerate the electrification of the City’s municipal fleet and phase out fossil fuel use in municipal vehicles by 2030. The plan will be inclusive of the Drive Clean Seattle Green Fleet Executive Order 2016-09, which includes right-sizing the city fleet, direction on procurement and an anti-idling policy. The plan will outline implementation strategies, actions and policy recommendations to meet the requirements of the Drive Clean Seattle Green Fleet Executive Order and this new order.

B. The plan will include a strategy to rapidly electrify the city’s fleet and to provide for the use of fossil fuel-free liquid fuels when electric vehicles are not a viable option. Plug-in vehicles will be purchased for the municipal fleet when a cost effective, market-ready vehicle is available which matches the planned operations for that vehicle. “Cost effective” will be defined to include the acquisition and operational costs of the vehicle as well as the external costs associated with its operation.

C. The plan will include a strategy to right-size all vehicle replacements at end of life with the most compact, cost effective, and lowest engine displacement vehicle for the driver’s job and provide an assessment of the greenest vehicle for common job types across the City. Further, the plan will establish fleet reduction goals to limit or reduce the size of the fleet and a strategy for employee mobility to reduce dependence on city-owned vehicles. As part of this strategy, the plan will review the take-home vehicle policy and other policies related to assigned and pooled vehicles and provide recommendations to align such policies with the goals of this Order.

D. Recognizing the unique needs of emergency management and first response vehicles, the plan will include a strategy to provide emergency management services with electric and fossil fuel-free vehicles wherever possible. The strategy will include an assessment of the challenges or opportunities presented by different vehicle fuel types on emergency management and response and allow for exemptions where alternative vehicles are not readily available.
E. The plan will include a strategy for infrastructure deployment to support the electrification of the municipal fleet. This strategy will include recommendations for a long-term funding approach for EV charging infrastructure, an analysis of the impact of potential EV Readiness policies on fleet operations, and potential partnerships with publicly accessible charging networks.

F. The plan will identify pathways for heavy duty electrification and advanced vehicle technology which include pilot projects and public-private partnerships to use or test electric vehicles in the municipal fleet before the vehicles are cost-effective for full deployment.

G. OSE, Seattle City Light (SCL), FAS, and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) are directed to advance public-private partnerships in our efforts to meet our aggressive EV infrastructure goals.

Section 2: Prohibition of new city-owned fossil fuel infrastructure

A. Effective immediately, construction and installation of any new fossil fuel infrastructure for the City’s fleet is prohibited. Fueling stations constructed on site at Police Department and Fire Department facilities, or for the relocation of existing facilities in accordance with department operational needs and race and social justice goals can be exempt from this Order. Such eligible projects must provide documentation supporting their exemption and shall proceed only with written approval from a Deputy Mayor.

B. If remodels or upgrades are planned at existing fueling stations, those plans must include an analysis of the potential of increased electrification.

Section 3: Reporting

A. The Green Fleet Action Plan will be completed no later than December 31, 2018.

B. FAS will provide an annual report to department Directors and the Mayor’s Office, which will include:
   a. Progress toward the goals identified in the plan, including a fossil fuel-free fleet by 2030, including department specific data.
   b. Exceptions made to fleet procurement standards and other green fleet policies.
   c. Policy recommendations to continue progress toward 2030 goals.

C. FAS will provide quarterly fuel reports to department fleet coordinators documenting fuel use by vehicle. Lower than average fuel economy (miles per gallon) will be highlighted to document excessive fuel use.
Section 4. The Office of Sustainability and Environment, the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, and the Department of Finance and Administrative Services will study the potential for partnerships with regional governments for shared uses of our fleets and will work together to share best practices in fleet electrification with our regional partners.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2018.

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Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor, City of Seattle

Supporting Policies/Initiatives:

1. RCW 43.19.648 – All public fleets in Washington State must use 100 percent electricity or biofuels as a fuel source to the extent practicable by 2018.
2. City of Seattle Resolution 31312 – Updating the Climate Action Plan to require reduction in transportation emissions by 81 percent by 2030.
3. City of Seattle Resolution 31696 – Expressing the need to transition the City’s transportation sector away from oil, setting a 30 percent vehicle electrification goal by 2030 and a 50 percent reduction goal for municipal fleet emissions by 2025, and endorsing Drive Clean Seattle.
4. Executive Order 2016-09 – Drive Clean Seattle Fleet Initiative. An Executive Order directing City departments to reduce fleet greenhouse gas emissions through green vehicle procurement, fleet electrification and a City-wide anti-idle policy.
5. City of Seattle Resolution 31757 – Affirming Seattle’s commitment to meet or exceed the goals of the Paris Climate Accord.