Local Government Alternative Fuel & Vehicle Procurement Guide
Decision-making Guidance for Procurement Rules (WAC 194-29)

FUELS

1) Are you fueling a diesel vehicle? If not, go to 2.
   - Use a 5% biodiesel blend (B5) when the price is no more than 1% higher than #2 diesel.
   - Use higher biodiesel blends (e.g. B10, B20) to the level covered by engine warranties when the price is no more than 1% higher than #2 diesel (including cost of additives needed to ensure storage and performance).
   - Use renewable diesel, or the highest available blend of renewable diesel and #2 diesel, when the price is no more than 1% higher than #2 diesel.

2) Are you fueling a flex-fuel vehicle? If not, go to 3.
   - Use flex-fuel when the price is at least 20% less than regular gasoline.

3) Are you fueling a natural gas vehicle? If not, go to 4.
   - Use renewable natural gas, or the highest available blend of renewable and conventional natural gas, when the price is competitive with conventional natural gas.

4) Are you fueling a propane vehicle? If not, go to 5.
   - Use renewable propane, or the highest available blend of renewable and conventional propane, when the price is competitive with conventional propane.

5) Local governments are encouraged to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in all fleet parking and maintenance facilities, and incorporate charging into all new facility construction and substantial remodeling projects.
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VEHICLES

1) Are you a transit agency, and if so, are you already using natural gas for more than half of your active revenue fleet (not including vans)? If not, go to 2.

➢ Your active revenue fleet vehicles (not including vans) are exempt from the rules. Use the following steps when procuring other transit agency vehicles.

2) Is a battery-only or hybrid electric vehicle equivalent to the vehicle you’re looking to replace available either through state procurement or on the open market? If not, go to 3.
   a. Does it meet your operational needs? Will it perform the required functions? If not, go to 3.
   b. Can charging be accommodated on a routine basis (remember, charging infrastructure and creative fleet management can resolve most vehicle charging concerns)? If not, go to 3.
   c. Compare the lifecycle costs of equivalent electric vehicles with the vehicle you’d otherwise procure. If the electric vehicles are more expensive, go to 3.

➢ Purchase an electric vehicle.

3) Is a propane or natural gas vehicle (dedicated fuel or dual-fuel) or conversion package available that meets your operational needs? If not, go to 4.
   a. Compare the lifecycle costs of propane or natural gas vehicles with the vehicle you’d otherwise procure. If the propane or natural gas vehicles are more expensive, go to 4.

➢ Purchase a propane or natural gas-fueled vehicle, or convert an existing vehicle to propane or natural gas.

4) Are you purchasing a diesel vehicle? If not, go to 5.

➢ If more than one option is available at the same price, purchase the vehicle with an engine warranty that covers the highest level of biodiesel use.

5) Consider leasing your gasoline vehicle in order to take advantage of new alternative fuel and vehicle technologies and associated cost-savings in a timely manner.