

# SANTA FE COUNTY

## RESOLUTION NO. 2007-142

**A RESOLUTION FOR ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING  
A TRANSPORTATION FUEL REDUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE  
FUEL VEHICLE ACQUISITION AND USE POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe County Manager's Office, at the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, is requesting approval to implement a policy regarding the reduction of transportation fuels used by Santa Fe County and the acquisition and use of alternative fuel vehicles.

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature of the State of New Mexico enacted the Alternative Fuel Acquisition Act, NMSA 1978, Section 13-1B-1 through 7, to govern the purchase and use of State vehicles and transportation fuel, and to establish goals for transition to a 75% alternatively fueled or gas-electric hybrid vehicle fleet.

**WHEREAS**, Governor Richardson's Executive Order No. 2005-049 strongly encourages local governments to adopt the same goal, and to move aggressively towards achieving it.

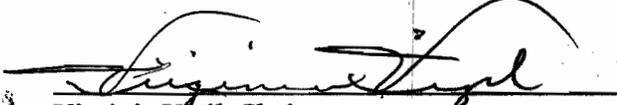
**WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County established a Fuel and Energy Reduction Task Force to research gas-electric hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles and make recommendations regarding their use.

**WHEREAS**, the policy attached hereto as Exhibit A, implements recommendations of the Santa Fe County Fuel and Energy Reduction Task Force and establishes goals for Santa Fe County to reduce its consumption of conventional transportation fuels and meet the Alternative Fuel Acquisition Act and Executive Order No. 2005-049 guidelines.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County that this Resolution to approve and implement the Transportation Fuel Reduction and Alternative Fuel Vehicle Acquisition and Use Policy, is hereby adopted.

**APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Virginia Vigil, Chairman

  
Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk

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Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk

Approved As To Form

*[Handwritten signature]*

Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney

County Manager's Approval

*[Handwritten signature]*

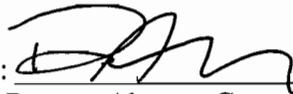
Roman Abeyta, County Manager

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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
ALL DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES**

PROCEDURE NO.: 2007- 142 COUNTY WIDE

TITLE: TRANSPORTATION FUEL REDUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE ACQUISITION AND USE POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 28, 2007 APPROVED BY:  Roman Abeyta, County Manager

**I. PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines for the acquisition of county-owned vehicles which are gas-electric hybrids or are capable of utilizing alternative fuels and the use thereof, and to outline requirements for the purchase of more fuel efficient vehicles and other measures to reduce the County's consumption of conventional transportation fuel.

**II. SCOPE**

This document applies to all Santa Fe County employees who are assigned to any aspect of the requisition or procurement of County vehicles or fuel and any employee who may drive a County-owned vehicle. This policy does not supersede previous policies regarding the use of County-owned vehicles, but is intended to supplement policies already in place.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

***Alternative Fuels*** – non-conventional fuel used to operate a motor vehicle including natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, electricity, hydrogen, a fuel mixture containing not less than 85% ethanol or methanol, a fuel mixture containing not less than 20% vegetable oil or a water-phased hydrocarbon fuel emulsion consisting of a hydrocarbon base and water in an amount not less than 20% by volume of the total water-phased fuel emulsion.

***Bi-fuel Vehicle*** – a vehicle capable of operating on conventional gasoline or compressed natural gas.

***Biodiesel*** – a domestic, renewable fuel for diesel engines derived from natural oils, like soybean oil, which meets certain specifications set by the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), the premier standard setting organization for fuels and fuel additives.

***Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards (CAFE)*** – fuel economy standards set for automobile manufacturers by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. Current standard is 27.5 miles per gallon.

***Conventional Fuel*** – gasoline or diesel fuel.



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***Flex Fuel Vehicle*** – a vehicle designed to run on regular unleaded gasoline and an alcohol fuel in any mixture.

***Gas-Electric Hybrid*** – a vehicle that uses both an internal combustion engine which operates on conventional fuel and an electric motor that operates on a battery.

**IV. GENERAL**

Santa Fe County wishes to conserve fuel and energy consumed by its vehicle fleet through the use of alternative fuel technologies, thus reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality. *NMSA 1978, Section 13-1B-3 requires that 75% of vehicles acquired by the State of New Mexico agencies or departments, and State educational institutions be vehicles capable of operating on alternative fuels or that are gas-electric hybrids.* Although not currently a requirement for County governments, implementation of procedures to increase local government use of alternative fuel vehicles and reduce consumption of conventional fuels is strongly encouraged under Governor Richardson’s Executive Order 2005-049.

**V. POLICIES**

A. Santa Fe County will implement a two-year pilot alternative fuel vehicle program requiring 50% of newly purchased vehicles to be gas-electric hybrids or capable of operating on an alternative fuel. The pilot program will begin January 1, 2008 and will end December 31, 2009. During the pilot period any currently County-owned or newly purchased vehicle capable of using an alternative fuel will be required to do so.

1. The following vehicles are exempt from the requirements of the pilot program:
  - a. Law enforcement pursuit vehicles and other emergency vehicles, and
  - b. Heavy equipment.
2. At the conclusion of the pilot program an analysis will be performed on the pilot program to measure its success and make recommendations regarding implementation of Sections V.D. of this policy. The following factors will be considered in this analysis:
  - a. The extent to which the County realized an actual reduction in its consumption of conventional transportation fuels,
  - b. Cost effectiveness of the alternative fuel vehicles compared to conventional fuel vehicles,
  - c. Performance standards and user satisfaction of alternative fuel vehicles compared to conventional fuel vehicles, and
  - d. The viability of implementation of Section V.D. of this policy based on current (at the time of pilot completion) availability of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels.

B. Santa Fe County will immediately implement a vehicle replacement strategy to ensure that new vehicles procured, whether alternatively fueled or

conventionally fueled, will have the highest fuel economy for the intended use.

1. The Procurement Department will require that replacement vehicles meet the following criteria (law enforcement pursuit vehicles and other emergency vehicles are exempt from these requirements):
    - a. Engine must be V-6 or smaller,
    - b. All vehicles procured for on-road passenger travel shall meet or exceed federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards as set forth by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).
    - c. Smaller, more fuel-efficient light-duty truck and four-wheel drive vehicles shall be procured for cargo hauling and off-road conditions when possible.
  2. Any purchase of a sports utility vehicle or a truck, regardless of whether it is alternatively or conventionally fueled, must be justified in writing and authorized by the County Manager.
  3. Any purchase of a vehicle with an engine larger than V-6 must be justified in writing and authorized by the County Manager.
- C. The County will seek to improve its motor pool and reduce the number of take-home vehicles assigned to County employees. The Motor Pool Department will establish vehicle utilization and assignment procedures to reduce fuel consumption.
1. Vehicle assignments will be based upon tasks being performed and job requirements.
  2. Employees must use an alternative fueled or gas-electric hybrid vehicle from the motor pool if one is available.
  3. Any sport utility vehicle or other four-wheel drive vehicle in the motor pool will be assigned only under bad weather conditions, if off-road driving will be necessary, or it is the only serviceable vehicle available.
- D. At the conclusion of the pilot program term and upon a positive recommendation regarding the continuation and expansion of the alternative fuels vehicle program the following goals shall be set:
1. Seventy-five percent of vehicles purchased by Santa Fe County in fiscal year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, excluding law enforcement pursuit vehicles and/or emergency equipment, will be vehicles that are capable of operating on an alternative fuel or are gas-electric hybrid vehicles. The following circumstances may justify a deviation from this policy:
    - a. If the Procurement Department can demonstrate that alternative fuels are unavailable at a cost within fifteen percent of the cost of

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conventional fuel within the normal driving range of these vehicles.

- b. A vehicle suitable for its intended use and capable of operating on alternative fuel or gas-electric hybrid is not available from an original equipment manufacturer.
  - 2. Fifteen percent of transportation fuel used by the County's fleet will be alternative fuel by 2013.
  - 3. The Procurement Department will pursue the bulk purchase of alternative fuels for use by the County's fleet to better ensure availability of these fuels at competitive prices.
  - 4. Anyone assigned to drive a county-owned vehicle that is capable of operating on either alternative fuel or conventional fuel (i.e. a bi-fuel vehicle, biodiesel or a flex fuel vehicle) shall operate the vehicle on alternative fuel.
- E. The Administrative Services Department will monitor the implementation of this policy and perform cost analysis as well as surveys of the vehicle users to determine the progress and success of the policy. The Administrative Services Department will report annually on its findings.

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

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Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for record On The 29TH Day Of August, A.D., 2007 at 16:27 and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1497734** of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Valerie Espinoza  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM  
deputy Montoya