



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Simpson, Brown, Helgeson, Manning and Mital
FROM: Roger Kline, Generation and Fleet Services Manager
Gary Lentsch, Fleet Supervisor
DATE: September, 6, 2013
SUBJECT: EWEB receives two national fleet awards
OBJECTIVE: Information only.

Issue

In June 2013 EWEB Fleet Services received two national honors. The Coalition for Green Fleet Management (CGFM) awarded EWEB the highest CLEANFleet Certification (Tier 5), only the second fleet in the nation to achieve this level of certification. We also received national recognition when our fleet was ranked number 16 as part of the 100 Best Fleets in North America program run by Government Fleet magazine.

Background

EWEB has a fleet of approximately 230 vehicles, ranging from bucket trucks, digger derricks, dump trucks, and cranes to vacuum trucks and hybrid passenger cars. We also have 140 auxiliary pieces of equipment including backhoes, excavators, forklifts and trailers used to provide services to our customers. Fleet Services have long been aware of the potential environmental and community impacts from the purchase, operation, maintenance and disposal of vehicles, equipment and materials so have worked over many years to manage the fleet efficiently.

Gaining CLEANFleet certification was a challenge we set ourselves to see how we measured-up at a national level and to help ensure we provide maximum benefit to our customer-owners. The certification program was developed by CGFM to certify both private and public fleet operations as energy efficient and environmentally responsible so was considered the best way to assess our fleet operations. To obtain Tier 5 Certification EWEB's environmental, purchasing, safety, facilities and fleet staff worked together to assess and improve fleet operations and information management through a variety of means, including development of a green fleet sustainability database, sustainable purchasing policy, fleet sustainability business plan and annual block training curriculum. CLEANFleet certification required detailed and specific action in 13 broad topic areas including: hazardous waste; general waste management and storage; used and recycled oil products; vehicle and equipment washing facilities; facility air quality; Freon management; contract repair work; product storage; facility management; administration including purchasing policies; vehicle replacement and carbon footprint; facilities utilities; and climate change.

Having Fleet Services located at the ROC LEED Gold facilities provided a helping-hand to gaining Tier 5 Certification as much of the energy efficiency, oil and fluids management and air quality requirements were incorporated into the design of the fleet shop.

Being recognized in the 100 Best Fleets in North America marks the third time that Fleet Services has reached the top 100 public fleets nation-wide. With more than 28,000 public fleets in North America the 100 Best Fleets program is highly competitive. Fleets are ranked on use of technology and information, evidence of high-trust culture, performance recognition, collaboration, creativity, staff development, quick and efficient turnaround, and competitive pricing. Breaking into the exclusive top 20 this year reflected the continuous improvements in sustainable operations achieved through the CLEANFleet certification.

Discussion including triple bottom line (TBL) assessment

Fleet services and the supporting team embarked on CLEANFleet certification as there were clear TBL benefits from increased vehicle and operational efficiency, decreased risk through improved staff and community safety as well as opportunities to lower environmental and community impact of fleet operations. Working towards and ultimately gaining the certification builds on EWEB's legacy of meeting customers' needs while caring for and addressing community and environmental issues and maintaining fiscal responsibility established many years ago.

CLEANFleet certification included taking a more "system's management" approach, where the process of plan/do/check/act was formalized and integrated into Fleet Services activities. This has provided a structure for the development of a culture and cycle of continuous improvement.

Many of the required practices and documents had already been developed, including the EWEB operations greenhouse gas inventory and Climate Action Plan, idle reduction guidelines and chemical use policies. In documenting all the processes necessary for the certification we found that a very useful pilot or model has been developed that we could use for other parts of the utility.

Some new initiatives to increase efficiency and decrease risk were also undertaken as part of the certification, including:

- Acids no longer used to clean truck parts- increased staff and community safety.
- Contracting with radiator vendors that are third-party Ecobiz certified- greater confidence that they are operating at a high environmental standard.
- Decreased hazardous cleaning and lubricant products over 50% from 2010 levels- creating less waste to dispose of and saving budget through bulk purchase of fewer products.
- Developed database to improve product tracking including fossil fuel, waste oil, antifreeze and other fleet fluids- lead to better management and decreased use of products.
- Enhanced staff training around safety, purchasing and environmental issues- helps avoid staff injury and spills or other environmental pollution, and purchase of unwanted products
- Development of the Fleet Sustainable Business Plan- outlines specific goals and actions to enact the TBL commitments made.
- Aligned with Sustainable Action Team and Purchasing initiatives in the development of an EWEB-wide Sustainable Purchasing Policy that is being implemented throughout the utility.

The CLEANFleet program requires re-certification every two years to ensure practices are integrated into fleet operations. In gaining and maintaining the certification EWEB is leading by example. Other organizations have already asking for copies of our sustainable polices and plans as well as tours of the fleet shop so they can learn and initiate similar practices in their organizations.

Recommendation and Requested Board action: Information only, no action requested.