

This policy presents a plan for the gradual replacement of vehicles and other equipment using fossil fuel to ones using local and renewable energy sources. It pertains to procurement practices and purchasing criteria. It is presupposed that the best time to replace fossil fuel powered vehicles and equipment (e.g. boilers, street lights, mowers etc.) with appliances that run on renewable forms of energy is when they have reached the end of their anticipated life expectancy and usefulness.

1. Whenever a Middlebury Department Head obtains and submits vendor quotes to purchase a vehicle or other equipment that will be powered by fossil fuels or fossil fuel sourced power, they will also obtain and submit vendor quote(s) for a comparable appliance/vehicle that can be powered by more renewable energy sources such as electricity sourced from renewable energy, biodiesel, or biomass such as wood chips or pellets. This policy also applies to the purchase of fuel and energy that is generated by fossil fuels.
2. Department Heads will also request that all vendors submitting proposals to provide the town with either a life-cycle analysis or an estimate of operation and maintenance costs of using their vehicle/equipment over an extended period of time (e.g. 20 years) using current fuel prices and a standard average number of operating hours per day. (e.g. heating system runs an average of 6 hours every day, or street lights are on for an average of 10 hours every night), and normal recommended maintenance schedules.
3. This information (initial cost, delivery and installation, cost of energy, cost of maintenance, life-cycle analysis) would then provide the Middlebury Select Board with the information needed to evaluate both the short and long-term economic benefits of converting the town's fossil fuel infrastructure to renewably powered alternatives at the time when purchasing decisions are being made and will allow the town to convert to renewable energy alternatives when it makes sense to do so. If this information is not provided, the Department head will provide the Select Board with an explanation why such information is not applicable.
4. If after having received bids or prices, it is determined that the long-term costs and benefits of non-fossil appliances/vehicles are comparable to those using fossil fuel, and not in excess of them by more than 15%, then the non-fossil appliances/vehicles will be selected.