

CHAPTER 7: POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Delray Beach Police Department Mission reads as follows: “The Delray Beach Police Department is committed to protecting life, property and the rights of all people; resolving issues and promoting peace in our community through ongoing partnerships; and ensuring the continuous professional development of our organization and its members.”

CURRENT DELRAY BEACH BEST PRACTICES

The Department currently:

- Uses lead free bullets and collecting fragments at firing ranges.
- Minimizes photo-processing waste through the use of digital photography.
- Uses transportation that is more fuel efficient, such as using AFV and bicycle patrols in urban neighborhood areas.
- Has adopted / is adhering to a new state mandated anti-idling ordinance.
- Has implemented recycling.
- Trains staff in and practicing crime prevention through environmental design.

CURRENT BEST PRACTICES BEYOND DELRAY BEACH

Sarasota, FL

Police Department has installed video surveillance cameras at busy intersections to help catch motorists that run red lights. Violations result in a \$125.00 fine (special city ordinance). This program results in fuel savings by avoiding having staff in running police cars monitoring red lights. (See [Ref 7.1](#))

The cameras also assist in traffic light synchronization, which decreases congestion, and consequently fuel consumption. (See [Ref 7.2](#))

Port St. Lucie County, FL

Sheriff officials are using a couple of fuel saving gadgets in agency vehicles, including the Hydro-4000, which claims to increase fuel efficiency 20% to 60%. Short term testing has proven to be effective. The County has 350 vehicle candidates that could use the product, potentially saving a tremendous amount of gasoline. (See [Ref 7.3](#))

Gainesville, FL

In an effort to save fuel Gainesville, FL Beach Police have initiated daily, random patrols with two police officers in one vehicle during daytime hours. Generally, patrols are done with a single officer in one vehicle. Under the program, one officer parks his vehicle in a highly visible area and rides with the other officer, thus saving half the fuel. The location of the parked vehicle is constantly changed and is mainly used to deter speeders in common areas. (See [Ref 7.4](#))

Palm Beach County, FL

Palm Beach County has been recognized nationally for its fleet management best practices, including fuel efficiency measures, purchasing of hybrid vehicles, and comprehensive cost analysis of green fleet efforts. (See [Ref 7.6](#))

QUICK WINS / LOW-COST GREEN RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Increase Use of Existing Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Bicycles

Increase the use of AFV and / or bicycle patrol for urban/neighborhood areas.

Recommendation 2: Implement Shared Vehicle Patrols

As noted in the Gainesville Best Practice above, one office can park a vehicle in a highly visible spot to deter speeders, while accompanying another office in his/her vehicle.

Recommendation 3: Minimize Trips for Minor Incidents

Take minor traffic or other incident reports over phone when appropriate.

Recommendation 4: Reduce Non-Duty Related Vehicle Use

Restrict officers from taking cars home, except when on call or where otherwise appropriate. Restrictions placed on car use for police supervisors, including, sergeants and lieutenants.

Recommendation 5: Quantify Overall Fuel Consumption and Establish Reduction Targets

Quantify the fuel consumption for the department city-wide, and establish targets for reduction by encouraging approaches, such as not idling, not over accelerating, and avoiding constant braking. (See [Ref 7.5](#))

Recommendation 6: Remove Unneeded Weight on Vehicles for Fuel Economy

Educate officer to assess every item in the vehicle and remove any unneeded items to maximize fuel efficiency.

Recommendation 7: Encourage Routine Fleet Maintenance

Conduct routine maintenance tests on all police vehicles, and establish best practice guidelines for fuel-efficient operation.

Recommendation 8: Assist in Enforcement of Green Codes

Assist with code enforcement whenever possible to report water restriction violations and idling (if an idling reduction ordinance is adopted).

Recommendation 9: Explore Greener Options for Cleaning Uniforms (e.g. washing or non-perc Dry Cleaning)

Investigate environmentally preferable options for the cleaning of uniforms as opposed to dry cleaning. This could be a lower cost option.

LONGER-TERM / STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Purchase More Fuel-Efficient Vehicles / Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Maximize the purchase of fuel-efficient / alternative fuel / hybrid vehicles. Cost studies by fleet managers such as Palm Beach County's have shown long term cost savings for alternative vehicles. (See [Ref 7.6](#), p. 12)

Recommendation 2: Implement Electronic Citation System

Systems such as the Zebra Electronic Citation System incorporate an electronic media approach to handling citations from the police department through the court system, reducing paper and streamlining the process in general. (See [Ref 7.7](#))

Recommendation 3: Use Reclaimed Rainwater to Wash Police Vehicles

Retrofit facilities with rain collection equipment and initiate water reclamation practices for washing police vehicles.

Recommendation 4: Implement GPS Routing Software

GPS software can often help save fuel by identifying the shortest route to a destination.

Recommendation 5: Phase Out Perchlorate Flares

Purchase electronic flares to replace the use of perchlorate flares. Perchlorate flares pose a threat to safety and well being of the environment. Burning and residue from these flares create contamination both in airborne and on surface areas. San Jose, CA has implemented such a program. (See [Ref 7.8](#))

REFERENCES

- Ref 7.1 - [Sarasota Light Camera](#)
- Ref 7.2 - [Traffic Light Synchronization](#)
- Ref 7.3 - [Port St. Lucie Installation](#)
- Ref 7.4 - [Gainesville Fuel Conservation](#)
- Ref 7.5 - [Fuel Conservation Report](#)
- Ref 7.6 - [Palm Beach County Fleet Management](#)
- Ref 7.7 - [Zebra Electronic Citation System](#)
- Ref 7.8 - [San Jose Flares](#)

Note: All references are available as clickable links within this electronic document and available online at <http://www.SustainableDelray.org/report.htm>