

## County Actions to Conserve Fuel

Updated 11/3/2005

County	Actions Taken	Mileage Reim Rate
<b>Barnwell</b>	No steps have been taken yet to conserve fuel.	40.5 cents/mile
<b>Berkeley</b>	We are staggering hours in departments where it will work, leaving it to the discretion of each department. We have asked that county vehicles not be left running idle; and that no unnecessary stops be made. We do have a contingency fund, and we are using that to "pay as we go".	
<b>Charleston</b>	<p>Charleston County departments are taking the following actions:</p> <p>Public Works Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporarily suspend routine roadside mowing, except to cut-back growth at intersections for safety reasons.</li> <li>- Temporarily suspend borrow pit (an area where soil, gravel or sand has been dug for use at another location) operations to cut down on heavy equipment use and trucking. Some stockpiled material will be used sparingly.</li> <li>- For most County sites, the grounds crews will be temporarily put into a once-a-month mode.</li> </ul> <p>Emergency Preparedness and Hazardous Materials Departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employees who take home a vehicle will temporarily move to a four-day work week to conserve fuel.</li> </ul> <p>Emergency Medical Services (EMS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most supervisory level personnel who respond to emergency calls after hours will temporarily turn in their home garaged vehicles to conserve fuel.</li> </ul> <p>Sheriff's Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All home-garaged vehicles at the Detention Centers will temporarily be called in.</li> <li>- The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will be temporarily halted.</li> </ul> <p>The Charleston County Sheriff's Office reports that because some gas stations in the county have closed and others have lines of customers, they are providing extra patrols in those areas.</p> <p>Charleston County Government spent \$2.1 million on fuel for the fiscal year 2004-2005 (July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005). The budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 (July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006) is \$2.1 million, and the County has \$250,000 in its contingency fund specifically for fuel in case the budgeted amount is not enough. There is more funding in the County's contingency fund that could be used for fuel if necessary.</p>	<p>Current rate is 30.5 cents/mile. Recently, Council asked staff to reevaluate the reimbursement rate in light of escalated gas prices. That evaluation is underway.</p>
<b>Dorchester</b>	Considering four-day, 10 hrs/day workweek (staggered) for employees.	
<b>Edgefield</b>	We have not changed any policies beyond increasing the mileage reimbursement rate.	Increased from 30.5 to 42 cents/mile
<b>Florence</b>	Florence County has not taken any action thus far in regards to the fuel crisis.	34.5 cents/mile
<b>Georgetown</b>	Currently considering four-day work week. Other measures taken: Increased use of technology to move information between offices; try to schedule meetings with outside consultants in county offices to reduce travel; schedule meetings at the beginning or end of the day so employees can drive to the location as part of their commute; allow employees to make mail drops during their commute to save using county vehicles; limit workers in offices outside the city of Georgetown to one trip per day to the main county offices; use pickup trucks and ATVs rather than fire engines for hydrant maintenance. The county is also consolidating other trips and requiring that logs be kept in all county vehicles so fuel efficiency can be monitored.	

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<b>Greenville</b>	<p>Suspend all out of town travel for nonessential training and meetings.  Eliminate vehicle idling – vehicles get 0 miles per gallon when the engine idles.  Eliminate the use of vehicles for unofficial or off-duty business.  Eliminate multiple vehicles traveling to the same location when possible.  Use radio and/or telephone communications instead of driving to appointments whenever possible.  Keep tires properly inflated – under inflated tires reduce fuel efficiency by as much as 10%.  Clean out the trunk or storage area - every 200 lbs. of unnecessary weight trims one mile off fuel efficiency.  Keep air filters clean - dirty air filter clog an engine's air supply causing higher fuel consumption.</p> <p>Having vehicle operators adhere to these efficiency measures will save the County approximately 10% in fuel expense, or approximately \$250,000 annually at today's prices.</p> <p>In the event that the fuel availability becomes a significant issue in the future, it may be necessary to prioritize vehicle fueling by type of service delivery and eliminate take-home vehicles.</p>	48.5 cents/mile
<b>Horry</b>	We are encouraging conservation of fuel but have not yet taken any formal action to suspend specific activities. We are prepared to do so if necessary.	35 cents/mile
<b>Jasper</b>	We currently have not changed any policies or procedures relating to fuel conservation.	37.5 cents/mile
<b>Kershaw</b>	We've tried to make available a couple of "loaner" cars for those who must do occasional travel in lieu of the 30 cents/mile. Otherwise we have made no special arrangements yet for conservation.	30 cents/mile
<b>Oconee</b>	We have approved a comprehensive energy conservation plan. Major components of the plan are: division-by-division measures to improve the efficiency of motor vehicle operations, planning, scheduling, maintenance procedures, and adherence to known fuel-saving practices; countywide institution of required thermostat settings at 78 degrees in summer and 68 degrees in winter during business hours. For periods when the buildings are unoccupied, thermostats will be set at 80 and 50 degrees respectively; and institution of a 10-hour, 4-day work week. Work schedules will not change for public safety, solid waste, and rock quarry.	
<b>Lexington</b>	The county is offering car pool match-ups for employees who are interested. The Public Safety Department has implemented winter storm schedule, which is fewer vehicles out on an initial call. Of course, emergency operations will have to continue to be available. The county is also looking at other options such as 4/10-hour workdays but nothing has been confirmed.	40.5 cents/mile or current federal IRS rate
<b>Pickens</b>	County departments have been asked to conserve fuel and to look for ways to change the method in which they do business to save fuel. We have provided departments a list of methods they can use to conserve fuel. We will continue to monitor this and follow-up to make sure departments are conserving the best that they can. Prior to the events a couple of weeks ago the county started to look at the type of vehicles we use to determine if we could use more fuel efficient vehicles to get the job done. That analysis is ongoing and will hopefully be implemented next budget year. Right now we are projecting a budget shortfall of between \$300K and \$400K in fuel costs this fiscal year. The good news is that the county is in excellent financial shape and we finished up strong last fiscal year. We plan to meet with each department head in the next few weeks and review their budget for this year to see if there are areas of spending we can reduce or hold off on. We will also review requests for training. A lot of our training is for required courses. However, in theory, training should help an organization become more efficient. Is it shortsighted to cut training in a time of crisis when the training will help the organization be more efficient and effective? I expect that for the rest of this year we will be more selective in our training, but not totally eliminate it.	Currently 40.5 cents/mile, but will probably conform to new IRS rate of 48.5 cents/mile
<b>Richland</b>	We are considering promoting tele-commuting.	
<b>York</b>	"Unofficially", county department heads have become more concerned about limiting discretionary driving trips and taking informal steps to conserve fuel (such as have employees combine their trips, eliminate unnecessary idling when possible, etc.). The Sheriff has asked his staff to make a conscious effort to conserve fuel usage by also eliminating unnecessary idling (such as while completing reports while in their patrol car), cutting back on use of county vehicles while off-duty, maintaining proper air pressure in their vehicle's tires and avoiding excessive acceleration.	40.5 cents/mile
<b>Responses:</b> <b>16</b>		