

1 **50-4.001 Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate**
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3 (1) This rule applies to any applicant seeking a rebate under the Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate program for the cost of
4 conversion or the incremental cost incurred by an applicant in connection with the conversion, purchase, or lease for a minimum term of
5 5 years, of a natural gas fleet vehicle placed into service on or after July 1, 2013. Pursuant to s. 377.810(3), F.S., an applicant is eligible to
6 receive a maximum rebate of \$25,000 per purchased/leased or converted vehicle, not to exceed 50 percent of eligible costs. Each
7 applicant may receive up to a total of \$250,000 per fiscal year on a first come, first serve basis.

8 (a) "Placed into service" means when a vehicle is purchased, leased, or converted.

9 (b) "Natural gas fuel" means any liquefied petroleum gas product, compressed natural gas product, or combination thereof used in a
10 motor vehicle as defined in s. 206.01(23), F.S. This term includes, but is not limited to, all forms of fuel commonly or commercially
11 known or sold as natural gasoline, butane gas, propane gas, or any other form of liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, or
12 liquefied natural gas. This term does not include natural gas or liquefied petroleum placed in a separate tank of a motor vehicle for
13 cooking, heating, water heating, or electric generation.

14 (2) An applicant seeking a Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate must apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
15 Services, Office of Energy (Department) as follows:

16 (a) Applicants must submit a completed Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate Application, FDACS-01976, Rev. 10/13, for each
17 vehicle purchase/lease or conversion by certified mail or hand delivery to the Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate, 600 South Calhoun
18 Street, Suite 251, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001, by 5:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time on June 30 of each year that funding is available.

19 (b) Applications will be accepted according to the following schedule:

20 1. During the first year of the program (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) applications will be accepted beginning at 8:00 A.M. Eastern
21 Standard Time on January 7, 2014;

22 2. During the second year of the program (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) applications will be accepted beginning at 8:00 A.M.
23 Eastern Standard Time on July 1, 2014;

24 3. During the third year of the program (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) applications will be accepted beginning at 8:00 A.M. Eastern
25 Standard Time on July 1, 2015;

26 4. During the fourth year of the program (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) applications will be accepted beginning at 8:00 A.M.
27 Eastern Standard Time on July 1, 2016; and

28 5. During the fifth year of the program (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) applications will be accepted beginning on July 3, 2017.

29 (c) Applications must include the information required by the Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate Application, FDACS-01976,
30 Rev. 10/13.

31 (d) Applications must include an itemized list of supporting documentation to include:

32 1. A legible photocopy of the purchased/leased or converted vehicle's valid and current registration;

33 2. The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the purchased/leased or converted vehicle;

34 3. For converted vehicles, a clear and legible photograph of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) from the vehicle;

35 4. For converted vehicles, a clear photograph of each purchased/leased or converted vehicle;

36 5. For converted vehicles, a clear photograph of the natural gas fuel tank installed on the vehicle;

37 6. A copy of the Environmental Protection Agency Certificate of Conformity with the Clean Air Act of 1990 that corresponds with
38 the vehicle or conversion kit;

39 7. In the case of a vehicle purchase or lease, documentation of the cost of the equivalent diesel- or gasoline vehicle; and

40 8. In the case of a conversion of a taxi, a copy of a valid and current weights and measures permit pursuant to s. 531.60, F.S.

41 (e) Applications must document investment in a natural gas fuel fleet by including both an invoice and corresponding proof of
42 purchase for all vehicle purchases/leases or conversions for which the applicant is seeking a Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate. An
43 explanation can be included concerning price and proofs of payment if multiple vehicles are purchased/leased or converted.

44 1. Acceptable forms of proof of purchase are:

45 a. A canceled check;

46 b. A copy of an electronic funds transfer showing the purchase amount and to whom the payment is going;

47 c. A screenshot of bank account reflecting the transaction (with unrelated information redacted) showing the purchase amount
48 and to whom the payment is going;

49 d. A signed lease contract; or

50 e. A credit card statement.

51 2. A valid proof of purchase must contain at least:

52 a. The price of the purchased/leased vehicle or vehicle conversion;

53 b. The date of vehicle purchase/lease or conversion;

54 c. The name, address, and phone number of the seller from which the vehicle was purchased/leased or the company that
55 completed the vehicle conversion; and

56 d. A description of the purchased/leased vehicle or conversion work performed.

57 (f) Copies of documentation in place of originals will be accepted; however, if the Department determines the application or
58 supporting documentation is illegible, the application will be determined incomplete.

59 (g) Each applicant shall complete the sworn statement, included as part of the application form, affirming; that the natural gas fuel
60 fleet vehicle(s) eligible for the rebate are in compliance with applicable United States Environmental Protection Agency emission
61 standards.

62 (h) Each applicant shall complete the sworn statement, included as part of the application form, affirming: that the information
63 contained in the application and supporting documentation is true and correct; that vehicle purchase/lease or conversion for which the
64 applicant is seeking a Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate have not previously received a Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate; and
65 that the requirements of s. 377.810, F.S., and this rule have been met.

66 (3) Only owners or lessees of fleet vehicles placed into service on or after July 1, 2013 shall be eligible for a rebate. As defined in s.
67 377.810(2)(d), F.S., “fleet vehicles” means three or more motor vehicles registered in this state and used for commercial business or
68 governmental purposes.

69 (4) In addition, applicants must submit with the completed application a description of the conversion or purchased vehicle’s
70 economic impact in Florida, which must include but is not limited to:

71 (a) The total projected dollar value of investment in alternative fuels as a result of the project that is eligible for a Natural Gas Fuel
72 Fleet Vehicle Rebate;

73 (b) The projected amount of gasoline or diesel saved as a result of the vehicle purchase/lease or conversion; and

74 (c) The projected amount of money saved as a result of the vehicle purchase/lease or conversion.

75 (d) If requested by the Department at a later date, additional economic data consisting of actual gasoline/diesel and money saved
76 shall be provided by the applicant.

77 (5) Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, based upon the date and time complete applications are
78 received by the Department.

79 (6) Within 60 days of receipt of an application, the Department will evaluate the application to verify that the applicant has met the
80 qualifying statutory and rule criteria. If the Department determines that the applicant is eligible for rebate, the Department will retain the
81 original application and issue a written notification that the application is complete. The Department shall issue each rebate after it is
82 determined that all required information has been provided to make that application complete and after that application has been
83 reviewed and approved, provided funds are available to do so.

84 (7) If the Department determines that the application is incomplete or ineligible, the Department will issue a written notification to
85 the applicant that the application was determined to be incomplete or ineligible and will include a description of the application's
86 deficiencies. If the Department determines that an application is incomplete, the applicant will be allowed to submit a corrected
87 application. The corrected application will be treated as a new application and reviewed in the order that it is received.

88 (8) The Department is responsible for ensuring that the total amount of rebates issued does not exceed the limits specified in s.
89 377.810, F.S. Once an application is determined eligible for a rebate, the approved amount will be applied to the fiscal year in which the
90 application is received by the Department.

91 (9) The Department reserves the right to verify in person any information included with any application. If the Department intends to
92 verify application information in person, written notification of this intent will be provided to the applicant.

93 (10) The Department reserves the right to request information from an applicant before a determination is made as to the status of
94 their rebate application. If this information is not provided by the applicant, the application shall be deemed incomplete.

95 (11) Applications received after funding has been exhausted will be returned to applicant with a notice that funding has been
96 exhausted for that program year. Applicants will be notified if their application appeared to be complete or incomplete.

97 (12) Materials Incorporated by Reference. The Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate Application, Form FDACS-01976, Rev.
98 10/13, is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference. The form may be obtained by contacting the Florida Department of Agriculture
99 and Consumer Services, Office of Energy, at 600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 251, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001, or emailing
100 Energy@FreshFromFlorida.com, and is available online at: <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-XXXXX>.

101 Rulemaking Authority s. 377.810(5), F.S.. Law Implemented 377.810, F.S. History - New _____.

102 PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: January 7, 2014.