

Report to Council



Date: May 16, 2016
File: [RIM Classification Number]
To: City Manager
From: D. Duncan, Manager, Parking Services
Subject: Eco-Pass Program Updates - Reconsideration

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Manager, Parking Services, dated May 16, 2016, for reconsideration of the eligibility criteria to obtain an Eco-Pass permit.

Purpose:

To reconsider a recent update to the Eco-Pass program made to encourage the purchase and use of plug-in electric vehicles.

Background:

The Eco-Pass program was introduced in 2005 to reward owners of fuel efficient, environmentally friendly vehicles by offering no-charge parking at on-street pay parking locations throughout 2005 and 2006. This program was extended in 2007 and 2008 and again reviewed as part of larger council reports in 2010 and 2011. All other parking restrictions, including maximum time limits remain applicable (i.e. two-hour parking) to ensure adequate turnover is maintained to prevent Eco-Passes from being used for long-term parking.

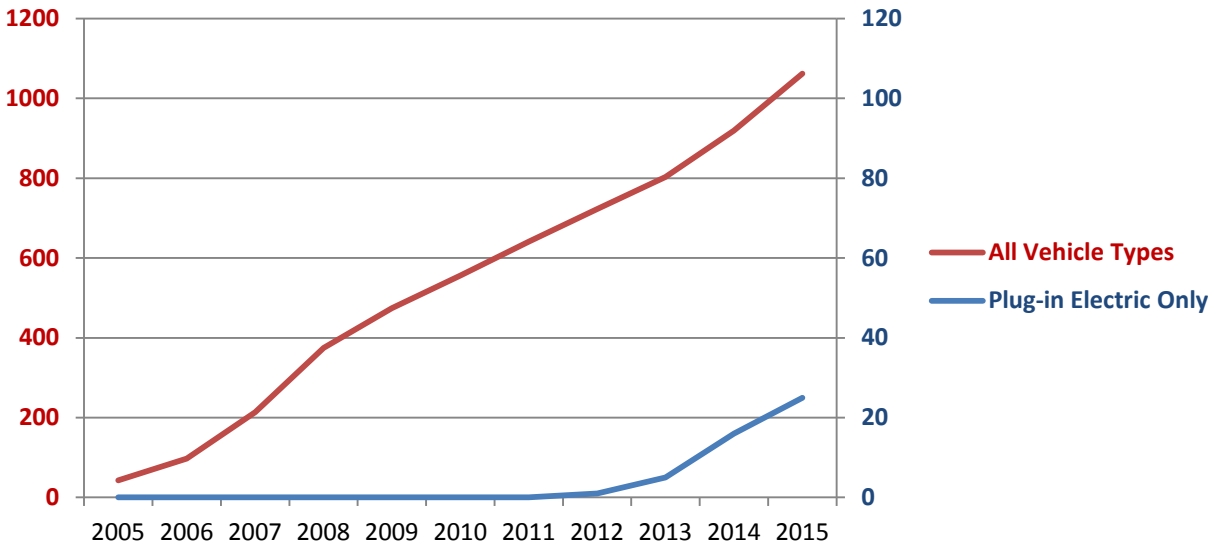
When the program began in 2005, there were seven hybrid models available in North America that would qualify; today there are more than 35 hybrid models and 39 plug-in electric models that qualify for an Eco-Pass. Current eligibility requirements for the Eco-Pass program state that all hybrid vehicles qualify, regardless of fuel economy (e.g. GMC Sierra Hybrid with published (city) fuel economy of 11.5 L/100km), which goes against the intent of the program. By comparison, non-hybrid vehicles must have a maximum fuel economy (consumption) less than 5.9 L/100km (city) to qualify. Participation in the Eco-Pass program has grown from 43 active permits in the first year to 1062 permits in 2015. If every active permit holder used their Eco-Pass once per week for two hours, lost parking revenue to the City could be more than \$138,000 annually.

A Report to Council in 2011 on Neighborhood Zero Emission Vehicles & Conventional Electric Cars suggested hybrid vehicles had successfully achieved market penetration and that their eligibility for the Eco-Pass program could be reconsidered.

Updates to the Eco-Pass Program

This is the first review of the Eco-Pass program since the 2011 report and hybrid vehicles are now commonplace. Staff believe the incentive to promote fuel efficient vehicles has been successful and that an incentive for plug-in electric vehicles should be the new qualification standard as we move forward. New Eco-Pass permits would be valid for up to two hours per day of no-charge on-street parking for a period of one year after which the vehicle would pay regular parking rates. Updates to the program would remove hybrid electric and fuel efficient gas/diesel powered vehicles from those eligible for an Eco-Pass in favour of plug-in electric type vehicles.

Active Eco-Passes (2005 to 2015)



If changes to the Eco-Pass program are approved, any older permits currently in circulation that do not show an expiry date would be deemed to expire on December 31, 2016. Newer permits with an expiry date indicated would remain valid until the date shown.

Internal Circulation:

Legislative Systems Coordinator
City Clerk

Legal/Statutory Authority:

B.C. Motor Vehicle Act; Section 124
City of Kelowna Traffic Bylaw No. 8120

Existing Policy:

- Kelowna's Official Community Plan identifies a goal of reducing the community greenhouse gas emissions by 33% from 2007 levels by 2020.
- Community Climate Action Plan.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

A small increase/decrease in on-street parking revenue is expected, depending on the eligibility criteria.

Communications Comments:

A news release will be issued if further changes are made to the Eco-Pass program. For approximately 1-2 years, staff have advised anyone receiving an Eco-Pass that the program is under review and that they may not be eligible in the future.

Alternate Recommendation:

THAT Council directs staff to amend Council Policy No. 375 to issue Eco-Pass Parking Permits for any hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) with maximum fuel consumption less than 6.0L/100km (city) as per the Natural Resources Canada 2016 Fuel Consumption Guide, until June 1, 2018. The permit will be valid for a one-year period and allow up to a maximum of two hours per day of no-charge on-street parking.

AND THAT Council directs staff to amend Council Policy No. 375 to provide Eco-Pass Parking Permits for any Battery Electric (BEV) or Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV), until further directed by Council. The permit will be valid for a one-year period and allow up to a maximum of two hours per day of no-charge on-street parking.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Personnel Implications
External Agency/Public Comments

Submitted by: D. Duncan, Manager, Parking Services

Approved for inclusion: D. Edstrom, Director, Real Estate

Attachments: 1. Council Policy 375 - "Eco-Pass Permit" (Existing Policy)
2. PowerPoint Presentation