



Alternative Fuel
Information Series

Clean Cities International Program

May 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY
OFFICE of ENERGY EFFICIENCY and RENEWABLE ENERGY

Clean Cities Goes International

Modeled after the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Clean Cities Program, Clean Cities International (CCI) aims to expand the successful U.S. program to interested countries around the globe. The environmental benefits of using alternative fuels are clear—and all nations can profit from cleaning their air, producing their fuels domestically, and enhancing local economic activity. CCI aims to use the successful experience in North America to help international communities realize these benefits.

CCI works with foreign governments, organizations, and individuals to help them establish foundations for viable alternative fuel markets. CCI is already partnering with several countries, and more partnerships are on the horizon.

Background

In the United States, DOE sponsors the Clean Cities Program, designed to encourage the use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and the development of the supporting infrastructure. By encouraging AFV use, the Clean Cities Program helps to achieve energy security and environmental quality goals on local, national, and international levels. The Clean Cities Program takes a unique, voluntary approach to AFV development, working with coalitions of local stakeholders to help develop local strategies and initiatives to integrate AFVs into the local transportation sector. There are now 78 Clean Cities in the United States.

In 1995, a Hemispheric Energy Symposium was held in Washington, D.C., as a follow up to the Summit of the Americas that took place in Miami, Florida, in December 1994. Both the symposium and the summit addressed the energy-related environmental and economic concerns that face our hemisphere. The symposium was held to begin the implementation process for the agenda items that had resulted from the Summit.

Energy cooperation and sustainable development ranked high on the list of agenda items, and Hemispheric Clean Cities, now known as Clean Cities International, was one of

A Tale of Two Cities

As part of the Hemispheric Clean Cities Initiative, DOE offered to share the Clean Cities model with the city of Santiago, Chile. Nestled in the beautiful Chilean mountains, Santiago suffers from serious air quality problems. Santiago was poised to benefit from the model because of its strong economy and because the first natural gas pipeline running from Argentina to Chile was completed in late 1995. In the ensuing years, the Clean Cities Program has sent personnel to Santiago to support the government of Chile in establishing a Clean Cities Coordinator position and coalition with cooperation from U.S. industry (GRI [formerly Gas Research Institute, based in Chicago], Thomas Built Buses, Natural Fuels Corporation, and John Deere Power Systems).

Santiago's sister city, Chicago, Illinois, has air quality problems of its own. In 1997, Chilean President Frei and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to proactively share information about each city's progress. In 1999, CCI and GRI sponsored a "reverse trade mission" that successfully showcased North American technologies to the Chileans. Chilean delegates visited Washington, D.C.; Denver, Colorado; southern California; and Dallas, Texas; observing both production and deployment of AFVs.

As a result of the reverse trade mission, the Chilean National Environmental Commission (CONAMA, a counterpart to the U.S. EPA), and the Office of the Governor of Santiago implemented a \$1.2 million subsidy (roughly \$24,000 per bus) for the purchase of natural gas buses in 2000. And in January 2000, newly elected Chilean President Ricardo Lagos publicly announced a plan to deploy 4,000 natural gas buses by 2005.

40 initiatives established. By adopting this initiative, the attendees demonstrated their faith in the Clean Cities model by wanting to share it with other countries.

Plans for the Future

In May 2000, a seminar will be held where representatives of U.S. industry will discuss technology issues and marketing opportunities for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles with the Santiago, Chile, Clean Cities Stakeholders, and other government officials. This seminar is a result of the new natural gas bus subsidy and governmental interest (see box on page 1). It is also expected to attract representatives from Argentina and Brazil.

Currently, three border programs—between the cities of El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; between Detroit, Michigan and Toronto, Canada; and between Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Winnipeg, Canada—are under way. And representatives from DOE and GRI have received inquiries for more information on CCI from representatives in several countries—Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Mexico, Portugal, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela. Clean Cities staff has also participated in meetings with World Bank staff regarding the merits of AFV technologies and the need for funding projects in developing countries. Because of increased international interest, program representatives expect the program to grow steadily in the months and years to come.

CCI plans to collaborate with the Technology Cooperation Agreement Project to enable technology transfer in the area of alternative fuels in the transportation sector. CCI will also sponsor an International Session at the 6th National Clean Cities Conference, "Clean Cities University: A Worldwide Perspective." The session will include presentations by international representatives on opportunities for U.S. AFV industry. Topics include the U.S./Mexico Bi-National Air Quality Commission's efforts to create a vehicle emissions testing facility in northern Mexico and joint AFV projects with the San Diego Clean Cities Coalition; the deployment of the Clean Cities Corridor extending from Monterrey, Mexico, to Winnipeg, Canada; and the status of the deployment of natural gas buses in Santiago.

Following the Clean Cities Conference, GRI, National Energy Technology Laboratory, and DOE will sponsor a workshop entitled, "Developing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Projects Using Clean Cities Technologies." Over the last two decades, a growing number of national and international initiatives to slow the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere have been proposed. This workshop will focus on methods of evaluating AFV projects that reduce greenhouse gases and developing international opportunities for funding AFV projects.

About Clean Cities...

The Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government and industry partnership. The program, now in its seventh year, seeks to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel in order to reduce dependence on imported oil, lessen air pollution, and increase public awareness about the benefits of using alternative fuels over gasoline and diesel. Almost 80 coalitions and some 3,800 stakeholders have joined to support the Clean Cities Program.

Now in their fourth year, the Clean Cities Coalition Awards recognize outstanding achievements in building coalitions, promoting and increasing alternative fuel vehicle use, developing AFV infrastructure, and supporting alternative fuel and AFV legislation.

For more information, you can

- call the Clean Cities Hotline at 1-800-CCITIES
- visit the Clean Cities Web site at <http://www.ccities.doe.gov> or <http://www.hemis-ccities.doe.gov> or
- e-mail the Clean Cities Hotline at ccities@nrel.gov



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