



Alternative Fuel  
Information Series

Clean Cities

FACTS

U. S. D E P A R T M E N T o f E N E R G Y

April 2002

## What is the Clean Cities Program?

**It is a government-industry partnership to advance alternative fuel vehicles.**

Clean Cities is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and was created with one overriding mission: to advance the use of cars and trucks powered by alternative fuels, and thereby reduce our nation's dependence on imported petroleum. The Program promotes the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and the expansion of the AFV-refueling infrastructure. At local coalitions across the country, governmental agencies and private companies come together voluntarily under the umbrella of the Clean Cities Program. The Program helps all parties identify mutual interests while meeting their individual

objectives—such as the need to improve air quality, comply with federal fleet regulations, or identify and create markets for vehicles or fuel.

Additionally, Clean Cities:

- Creates new jobs and commercial opportunities
- Facilitates AFV production and sales
- Develops "clean corridors" of AFV-friendly highways
- Increases public awareness of alternative fuels

## What are alternative fuels?

**A short list of approved fuels was created by federal legislation in 1992.**

When Congress passed the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct), it required certain types of users to complete their future light-duty vehicle acquisitions, in specific proportions, with AFVs. Covered fleets include those operated by government agencies at both the federal and state levels. Also covered are certain vehicle fleets in private industry—specifically those operated by alternative fuel providers and utility companies.

To meet those requirements, covered fleets must choose vehicles that can run on approved alternative fuels. Those fuels include natural gas, liquids produced from natural gas, ethanol, methanol, biodiesel, hydrogen, electricity, and liquefied petroleum gas, also commonly called propane. Also included is P-Series Fuel, a blended product designed for fleets. EPAAct credits can be earned by fleets using B20, a diesel blend containing 20% biodiesel, at a rate of one credit per 450 gallons.

## How does Clean Cities work?

**The Program attempts to mobilize local stakeholders in government and industry.**

In approximately 80 coalitions across the country (listed on pages 2-3), the Clean Cities Program draws local stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Represented are local, state and federal agencies; public health and transportation departments; transit agencies; and other government offices; as well as auto manufacturers, car dealers, fuel suppliers, public utilities, and professional associations. Joining Clean Cities is voluntary. More than 4,700 stakeholders have accepted the invitation to sign up and experience the Program's many benefits.

create AFV markets. Clean Cities is often instrumental in cultivating an alternative fuels "community," where people learn how to fuel and operate AFVs successfully. In the process, the uncertainty of using alternative fuels can be reduced.

A Clean Cities coalition can provide a forum for members to leverage their resources, develop joint projects, collaborate on public policy issues, and promote AFVs in their communities. The Program can match buyers with sellers, and help

The Program emphasizes applications in "niche markets." Opportunities for AFV users are greatest where fleets can share their use of the infrastructure. Examples include airports, campuses, and military bases, government agencies, public transit agencies, and freight and package delivery companies. Clean Cities devotes much of its attention to promoting opportunities available in these niche markets. But it welcomes and supports individual AFV users and owners as well.



## Where can I get more information?

Call the Clean Cities Hotline at 1-800-CCITIES with questions about alternative fuels, AFVs, and the Clean Cities Program itself. You can also find answers and information on a host of topics at the Clean Cities Web site, located at [www.cities.doe.gov](http://www.cities.doe.gov). Some of its features are:

- **The Clean Cities Roadmap**, offering instructions for cities and regions on how to join the Clean Cities Program.
- **A Guide to AFV Incentives and Laws**, with information on how and where funding is available for AFVs and related infrastructure.
- **The Coordinators' Toolbox**, with information and resources to help Clean Cities coalition coordinators.
- **Alternative Fuel News**, a free quarterly magazine with news and features about Clean Cities, AFVs, and alternative fuels.
- **The Fleet Buyer's Guide**, featuring a step-by-step process to help fleet managers and individuals make informed AFV purchase decisions. Located at [www.fleets.doe.gov](http://www.fleets.doe.gov).
- **The Alternative Fuels Data Center**, a searchable database with more than 3,000 relevant documents and publications, located at [www.afdc.doe.gov/](http://www.afdc.doe.gov/).

## Clean Cities Regional Contacts

All DOE regional offices (listed below) are staffed by Clean Cities personnel, ready to help with alternative fuels market development questions. Assistance is also available from local Clean Cities coordinators (see pages 2-3).

The list is regularly updated at <http://www.cities.doe.gov/contact.shtml>.

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To obtain more information, contact the Clean Cities Hotline at Phone: 800-CCITIES  
Web site: <http://www.cities.doe.gov>  
E-mail: [ccities@nrel.gov](mailto:ccities@nrel.gov)

or write to:  
U.S. Department of Energy, EE-34  
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