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Alternative Fuel  
Information Series

# Clean Cities Fact Sheet

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

## Funding Alternative Fuel Activities

A wide variety of funding sources is available for alternative fuel activities. The Clean Cities Web site maintains updated information on funding resources and tips for pursuing those resources at [www.cities.doe.gov/funding.shtml](http://www.cities.doe.gov/funding.shtml). This fact sheet summarizes major funding opportunities and suggests avenues for finding additional funding.

In addition to seeking conventional funding sources, it is important for Clean Cities coalitions to explore opportunities unique to their areas and to link diverse partners. For example, Kentucky's Commonwealth Clean Cities Partnership initiated a project to convert six buses at Mammoth Cave National Park to propane. From this modest beginning, the coalition established a network of new projects and funding sources with partners that included the National Park Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Propane Education & Research Council, propane and car dealers, an equipment installer, and a nationwide resort company.

This is only one of many creative partnerships built by Clean Cities coalitions nationwide. Active Clean Cities participation maximizes funding success. If your company, organization, or fleet is not yet involved in a Clean Cities coalition, contact your local coordinator to discover the many benefits of membership.

### DOE State Energy Program (SEP) Grants—Clean Cities Program Category

#### Alternative Fuel Activities Funded

Acquiring commercially available AFVs, including school buses, and AFV infrastructure. Providing cost sharing toward projects that support coalition activities.

#### Eligibility and Application Procedures

Designated Clean Cities coalitions are eligible. Solicitations are posted on the DOE e-Center. Applications must be routed through local Clean Cities coalitions then submitted to DOE by the state energy office (or its equivalent) for the

state in which the project will occur. Contact your state energy office for specific rules and deadlines.

#### More Information

DOE: e-Center <https://e-center.doe.gov>.

Clean Cities Program: State Energy Program description; regional, state, and local contacts [www.cities.doe.gov](http://www.cities.doe.gov).

National Association of State Energy Officials: state energy office contacts [www.naseo.org/members/states.htm](http://www.naseo.org/members/states.htm).

### Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

#### Funded by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration

#### Alternative Fuel Activities Funded

Switching transit vehicles to alternative fuels, purchasing vehicles and fueling equipment for other public agencies and private companies. For CMAQ purposes, an "alternative" fuel must reduce emissions to be eligible (includes natural gas, ethanol, methanol, electricity, and propane).

#### Eligibility and Application Procedures

Funds must be spent in nonattainment or maintenance areas as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Funds are available to a wide range of government and nonprofit organizations, as well as private

entities contributing to public/private partnerships, but are controlled by local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and state Departments of Transportation. The process for obtaining CMAQ funds varies. Generally, coalitions must establish a relationship with the local MPO and have projects included in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program.

#### More Information

Federal Highway Administration: CMAQ Program, including CMAQ brochure [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaqpgs/index.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaqpgs/index.htm).

## Funding for Specific Alternative Fuels

Information about fuel-specific funding opportunities is available through organizations that promote alternative fuels. Contact these organizations to learn about potential opportunities. Your local alternative fuel providers may also fund projects related to their products and facilities—give them a call!

### Biodiesel

National Biodiesel Board: [www.nbb.org](http://www.nbb.org).

### Electricity

Electric Drive Transportation Association: [www.electricdrive.org](http://www.electricdrive.org).

### Ethanol

National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition: [www.e85fuel.com](http://www.e85fuel.com).

### Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Propane)

Propane Education & Research Council (PERC):  
[www.propanecouncil.org](http://www.propanecouncil.org).

### Natural Gas

Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition: [www.ngvc.org](http://www.ngvc.org).

## Other Potential Funding Sources

### Automakers

Vehicle manufacturers such as DaimlerChrysler, Ford, General Motors, and Honda offer rebates and other incentive programs. Contact your Clean Cities coordinator or the manufacturers to find out what is offered. Information can be found in the Vehicle Buyer's Guide for Consumers. ([www.ccities.doe.gov/vbg/consumers/dealers.shtml](http://www.ccities.doe.gov/vbg/consumers/dealers.shtml)).

### DOE e-Center

The e-Center (<https://e-center.doe.gov>) provides information about doing business with DOE. You can view current business opportunities, register to submit proposals, and learn about the acquisition and financial assistance award process. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail updates about new solicitations.

### EPA Grants and Debarment

This site ([www.epa.gov/ogd/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/index.htm)) gives information on grant programs available under EPA's Office of Administration and Resource Management.

### EPA Transportation-Related Grants Database

This site (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/aa/grants.nsf>) is a clearing-house of information on transportation- and air quality-related projects funded by EPA.

### FedBizOpps

The Web site [www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov) provides information for federal government procurement opportunities over \$25,000. Government buyers post information directly to FedBizOpps via the Internet. Vendors seeking federal markets for their products and services can search, monitor, and retrieve opportunities solicited by the entire federal contracting community.

### Foundation Center

Coalitions that are public nonprofit organizations may qualify for foundation funds. For advice on approaching foundations, visit the Foundation Center Web site ([www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org)). For more information on local foundations, visit your local library's reference desk and ask for its "foundation guide."

### Funding Opportunities Newsletter

The free electronic *Funding Opportunities Newsletter*, produced by DOE's Seattle Regional Office, gives information about solicitations offered by public agencies

and foundations. To receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to [subscribe-funding@listserv.energy.wsu.edu](mailto:subscribe-funding@listserv.energy.wsu.edu). In the body of the message, type "subscribe funding" followed by your e-mail address. For more information, contact DOE's Laurie Brown ([laurie.brown@ee.doe.gov](mailto:laurie.brown@ee.doe.gov)).

### Inventor Resources

DOE provides information that may assist inventors of alternative fuel technologies. The Inventions and Innovation ([www.oit.doe.gov/inventions](http://www.oit.doe.gov/inventions)) and Inventor Assistance Information ([www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/refbriefs/t124.html](http://www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/refbriefs/t124.html)) sites discuss funding opportunities among other resources.

### Metropolitan Planning Offices

Clean Cities coalitions have a strong relationship with local MPOs, which have information about additional funding opportunities and potential project partners. Some funding opportunities administered by MPOs are available through organizations such as Clean Cities coalitions. A list of MPOs is available from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Offices ([www.ampo.org/links/mposnet.html](http://www.ampo.org/links/mposnet.html)).

### State Energy Offices and Environmental Agencies

These organizations have access to numerous funding opportunities. State energy office contact information is available from the National Association of State Energy Officials ([www.naseo.org/members/states.htm](http://www.naseo.org/members/states.htm)). State environmental agency contact information is available from the Environmental Site ([www.envirosite.com/state.html](http://www.envirosite.com/state.html)).

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