What is Clean Cities?

Clean Cities is a government-industry partnership designed to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative fuels and vehicles, idle reduction technologies, hybrid electric vehicles, fuel blends, and fuel economy.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Clean Cities contributes to the environmental, economic, and energy security of the United States by reducing our dependence on imported petroleum. Established in 1993 in response to the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 1992, the partnership has provided tools and resources for voluntary, community-based programs that deploy alternative fuels across the country. To build on Clean Cities’ success with alternative fuels and expand its impact, its focus was broadened in 2004 to incorporate a wider range of transportation technologies that can help reduce petroleum consumption.

In more than 80 coalitions (see pages 2-3), government agencies and private companies come together voluntarily under the umbrella of Clean Cities. The partnership helps all parties identify mutual interests and meet their own objectives—to improve air quality, develop regional economic opportunities, and reduce our dependence on imported oil.

Which technologies are included?

The Clean Cities portfolio includes alternative fuels and vehicles, hybrids, idle reduction, fuel blends, and fuel economy.

The portfolio provides a range of options and flexibility to meet petroleum displacement goals. These options include using truck stop electrification or onboard auxiliary power to reduce fuel use by idling trucks, hybrid electric vehicles, the expanded use of nonpetroleum fuels (e.g., low-level blends of ethanol and biodiesel) with conventional fuels, and higher efficiency vehicles and driving practices, along with the cornerstone of the portfolio, alternative fuels. As defined by EPAct, alternative fuels supported by Clean Cities are natural gas, ethanol, methanol, biodiesel, hydrogen, electricity, liquefied petroleum gas (propane), and P-Series fuel.

How does Clean Cities work?

The partnership mobilizes local stakeholders in government and industry.

Clean Cities draws stakeholders from local, state, and federal agencies; public health and transportation departments; commercial fleets; transit agencies; and other government offices; as well as auto manufacturers, car dealers, fuel and equipment suppliers, public utilities, and nonprofit associations. More than 4,800 stakeholders have accepted the invitation to contribute to the partnership’s mission.

Clean Cities has often been instrumental in cultivating an alternative fuels “community,” where people learn about a wide range of options and technologies. In addition, it helps create markets for alternative fuel vehicles (AFV), hybrids, fuel blends, fuel economy, and idle reduction. A Clean Cities coalition can provide a forum for members to leverage their resources, develop joint projects, collaborate on public policy issues, and promote petroleum displacement and clean air technologies.

The partnership emphasizes niche market applications. Chances of success are greatest where fleets can use multiple petroleum reduction strategies or share infrastructure. Examples include airports, taxi and shuttle services, campuses, military bases, government agencies, public transit agencies, school districts, and freight and package delivery companies. Clean Cities promotes opportunities in these markets, but welcomes all parties and organizations with common goals.
Clean Cities provides technical assistance and information resources.

Clean Cities provides an extensive Web site, a searchable online documents database, a newsletter, a toll-free phone number, conferences and workshops, and many other tools and publications. Our Web site, at www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/, includes information about: light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, fuels and their local availability, idle reduction, hybrids, fuel blends, and fuel economy; grants and other project funding; and taxes, laws, and current incentives at the state and federal level. Plus, you’ll find guidelines for starting a Clean Cities coalition, news, contact information, success stories, and much more.

For coalitions that encounter technical problems, DOE provides technical assistance (www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/technical_assistance.html) that may be able to help with issues such as station design and siting, interaction with alternative fuel providers, implementation strategies, safety, fueling station performance, and user and operator training.

What has Clean Cities accomplished?

Clean Cities has been integral to many success stories. It has spurred significant gains in the nation’s AFV population and associated fueling infrastructure; established AFV programs at hundreds of airports, transit agencies, military bases, universities, and businesses; and cultivated alternative fuel use by school buses, police cars, postal vehicles, delivery vans, taxis, rental cars, and utility trucks.

Through local and national events, special emphasis has been focused on educating fleet managers and corporate executives about Clean Cities technologies. Clean Cities has created many funding opportunities through a variety of financial support programs, such as the State Energy Program Special Projects, making available millions of dollars, and leveraging millions more, in such categories as infrastructure, AFV incremental cost buy-downs, coalition support, heavy-duty idle reduction, and AFV school buses.

Local Clean Cities Coordinators

AR-Central Arkansas
Tommy Foltz
501-537-2273

AZ-Valley of the Sun (Phoenix)
Bill Sheaffer
480-314-2457
www.cleanairarz.org

AZ-Tucson
Colleen Crowninshield
520-792-1093, x426
www.pagnet.org/CleanCities/

CA-Coachella Valley
Scott Fischler
760-318-1982

CA-East Bay (Oakland)
Chris Ferrara
562-570-5405
www.valleycleancities.org

CA-Lancaster
Bret Banks
661-723-8070

CA-Long Beach
Leslie Horikawa-Thiede
562-570-5405
www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/

CA-San Diego
Greg Newhouse
619-388-7673
www.sdarvc.org/

CA-San Francisco
Rick Ruvulo
415-753-1136
www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/air/ccc.htm

CA-San Joaquin Valley
Linda Urata
661-835-8665
www.valleycleancities.org/

CA-Southern California Assn. of Governments
JoAnn Armenta
809-396-5737

CO-Colorado Springs
Teri Ulrich
719-475-0155

CO-Denver
Stacey Simms
303-847-0271
www.alar.org/cleancities.cfm

CO-Northern Colorado
Robin Newbrey Riesberg
970-689-4845

CT-Capitol Clean Cities
Peter Casarella
860-437-4111

CT-Southwestern Area (Norwalk)
Ed Boman
203-256-3010

CT-New Haven
Lee Grannis
203-627-3715
Brian McGrath
203-946-8067

CT-Norwich
Peter Polubiatko
860-887-6964

DC-Washington
George L. Nichols
202-962-3355

DE-State of Delaware
Suzanne Sebastian
302-739-1530

FL-Gold Coast
Carlos Andres Gonzalez
954-985-4416
www.srrpc.com/gfccc.htm

FL-Space Coast
Bill Young
321-638-1434
www.fsec.ucf.edu/env/fscities/spscst.htm

GA-Atlanta
Wendy Morgan
678-244-4152
www.cleancitiesatl/html

GA-Middle Georgia
Charise Stephens
478-751-9178
www.mga-cleancities.com

HI-Honolulu
Robert Primiano
808-484-7500
www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/ert/cc/

IA-Statewide
Tammy Foster
515-281-6558

IL-Chicago
Bethany Kraseman
312-744-8096
www.chicagocleancities.org/

IN-Central Indiana Clean Cities Alliance
Kellie Walsh
317-834-3754
www.cicca.org/

IN-South Shore
Carl Lisek
630-207-1760
www.southshorecleancities.org/

KS/MO-Kansas City
Benjamin Watson
816-531-7624
www.kc-cleancities.org/

KS-NO-Kansas City
Diane Stoddard
785-587-2404
www.cl.kansas.state.us/cleanCities.asp

KY-KY Clean Fuels Coalition
Melissa Howell
502-452-9152
www.kentuckycleanfuels.org/

LA-Baton Rouge
Tammie Morgan
225-389-8560
www.lacccc.or

MA-Boston
David Rand
617-727-4732, x40138
www.mass.gov/doer/cleancit/cleancit.htm

MD-Baltimore
Lauren Robbins
410-260-7542
www.energy.state.md.us/programs/transportation/baltimore.htm

ME-Maine Clean Communities
Steven Linnell
207-774-9891
www.gpcog.org/mcc.php

MI-Ann Arbor
David Konkle
734-996-3150
www.aacleancities.org

MI-Detroit
Rachel Kuntzsch
517-285-0460

MI-Greater Lansing
Rachane Kitchel
517-230-9299
www.michigancleancities.org/

MN-Twin Cities
Tim Gerlach
651-225-9577
www.minneapoliscleancities.org/

MO-St. Louis
Kevin Herdler
314-822-5380
www.stlcleancities.org/

September 2005
Putting Alternative Fuel Vehicles on the Nation’s Streets and Highways

For the most current list of Clean Cities coordinators, visit the Web site at www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/coordinators.html, or email ccities@nrel.gov.

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What is Clean Cities International?

Clean Cities International (www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/international) seeks to expand the successful U.S. partnership to other countries. International markets help sustain the domestic alternative fuels industry, and all nations can benefit from cleaning their air, producing their fuels domestically, and enhancing local economic activity. Clean Cities International works with governments, organizations, and individuals to establish the foundations for viable alternative fuels markets to ensure the successful acceptance of AFVs. Bangladesh, Chile, India, Mexico, Peru, and the Philippines participate. Clean Cities International also has a partnership with the European Commission and its CIVITAS Program, an initiative similar to Clean Cities.

Where can I find more information?

Visit the Clean Cities Web site at www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/. Some of its features are:

- **Clean Cities Now** (formerly Clean Cities News) is an online newsletter with news and features about Clean Cities, AFVs, alternative fuels, and other Clean Cities technologies: www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/ccn/.
- The Fleet Buyer’s Guide at www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/vbg/ includes a step-by-step process to help fleet managers and individuals make informed AFV purchase decisions. This site also features the Incentives and Laws database, which contains current information at the state and national levels.
- The Alternative Fuels Data Center at www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/ has detailed information on alternative fuels and vehicles and a searchable database with more than 3,000 relevant documents and publications.

For more information contact us at:

Web site: www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/
E-mail: ccities@nrel.gov

or write to:

U.S. Department of Energy
Clean Cities, EE-2K
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

Clean Cities Headquarters and Regional Contacts

All DOE regional offices are 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 www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/contacts.html.

**DOE Headquarters**
Director: Shelley Launey
202-586-1573
Deputy Director: Marcy Rood
202-586-8161
Clean Cities, EE-2K
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

**Southeast**
(AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, PR, VI)
David Dunagan
404-562-0561
75 Spring St., SW
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30303-3308

**Northeast**
(CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)
Mike Scarpino
617-565-9716
JFK Federal Building
Room 675
Boston, MA 02203-0002

**Midwest**
(IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI)
Stephanie Sung
312-886-8584
Chicago Trade Building
Suite 1710A
141 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

**Central**
(CO, KS, LA, MT, ND, NE, NM, OK, SD, TX, UT, WY)
Ernie Oakes
303-275-4817
1617 Cole Blvd., MS 1521
Golden, CO 80401

**Mid-Atlantic**
(DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV)
Patricia Passarella
215-656-6966
100 Penn Square East
Suite 890
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Western**
(AK, AS, AZ, CA, GU, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA)
 Roxanne Dempsey
206-553-2155
Kim Penfold
206-553-2166
800 Fifth Ave.
Suite 3950
Seattle, WA 98104

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A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.

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