



Alternative Fuel  
Information Series

# Clean Cities Award Winning Coalition

May 1999

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

## Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program

### Spreading the Word

The Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program (GPCCP) has got a lot to say about the benefits of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). And they have the Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence and the 1998 Clean Cities **Madison Avenue Award** for outstanding public outreach efforts to prove it. The GPCCP always goes beyond expectations to provide its stakeholders with the resources they need to implement alternative fuel projects that help clean the air and reduce the nation's dependence on imported oil.

Established in 1993 and incorporated in 1997, the GPCCP is widely recognized as one of the most successful coalitions in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) national program. The GPCCP is a member-funded organization comprised of some of the largest government organizations, utilities, and non-profit groups in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Program stakeholders contribute time, staff, and financial resources.

### Making an Impact

It's easy to get the latest information on funding opportunities and incentives, legislation and regulations, AFV technologies and availability, infrastructure development, and safety in Philadelphia. The GPCCP coalition regularly sponsors stakeholder meetings, fleet manager workshops, training sessions, and special events to promote the development and use of alternative fuels and AFVs in the region.

Recently, the GPCCP hosted a ceremony to celebrate its five-year anniversary. The event was sponsored by the Ford Motor Company and General Motors and took place at the Philadelphia International Airport. Attendees were able to test drive the latest AFV models and airport representatives launched the newest AFV additions to their fleet—18 compressed natural gas (CNG) employee shuttles.

The GPCCP is also proud of its other public outreach efforts. Stakeholders have access to industry news via the coalition's quarterly newsletter, *The Drive*, as well as brochures featuring stakeholder success stories. Current information can always be found by visiting the GPCCP Web site at <http://www.libertynet.org/~gpccp>. In conjunction with the DOE Philadelphia Regional Support Office, the coalition distributes guides for refueling and maintenance for CNG and propane in the mid-Atlantic region. Glove compartment-sized, both guides list the names, addresses, hours of operation, and payment options for fuel providers within an eight-state radius. The guides also feature maps and directions.

### Funding Stakeholder Fleets

The GPCCP aggressively promotes AFV acquisition through rebate programs. Currently, the coalition offers two rebate opportunities for shuttle operators and fleets who use Interstate 95. From a \$100,000 grant, the GPCCP is distributing funds up to \$6,000 per vehicle to support its Shuttle Market Development Initiative. The program's objective is to bolster the market share of AFVs in the shuttle industry with the goal of 100 percent market penetration. The rebate is intended to cover the cost difference between the purchase of a new AFV shuttle and a comparable gasoline- or diesel-powered model.



Photo courtesy of Jason Rash

GPCCP's Annual Earth Day Ceremony

Private and public fleets licensed to do business in Pennsylvania that use Interstate 95 are eligible to apply for rebates up to \$4,000 per vehicle to cover the incremental costs of purchasing AFVs or to convert existing gasoline-powered vehicles to alternative fuel. The GPCCP awards these funds as part of the Northeast Corridor Rebate Program. This program aids in reinforcing the growing AFV fueling infrastructure, while preventing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.

"The transportation sector can play a major role in cleaning the air in Pennsylvania's major metropolitan areas," said Deputy Secretary for Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance, Stacy A. Richards. "Programs such as Clean Cities promote viable alternatives to traditional transportation."

## Planning for the Future

The GPCCP's alternative fuel future is bright. The coalition plans to continue providing quality services to existing stakeholders and create a new marketing subcommittee to recruit prospective members. To reduce noise and emissions from diesel-powered school buses, the GPCCP is coordinating with two local school districts to acquire and deploy CNG buses. And stakeholders will be developing the Clean Airport Marketing Initiative to encourage airlines and other vendors at the Philadelphia International Airport to purchase and use AFVs.

## About Clean Cities...

The Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government and industry partnership. The program, now in its sixth 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. At least 70 coalitions and some 3,500 stakeholders have joined to support the Clean Cities Program.

Now in their third 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

- contact the Clean Cities Coordinator listed below
- call the Clean Cities Hotline at 1-800-CCITIES
- visit the Clean Cities Web site at <http://www.ccities.doe.gov>  
or
- e-mail the Clean Cities Hotline at [ccities@nrel.gov](mailto:ccities@nrel.gov).

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