



Alternative Fuel
Information Series

Clean Cities Award Winning Coalition

May 1999

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

Salt Lake Clean Cities

A Clear Vision for Cleaning the Air

Salt Lake Clean Cities has a clear vision. Promoting and facilitating the use alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), the 82 private business, nonprofit, and government agencies that make up the Salt Lake Clean Cities Coalition are committed to cleaning the air.

Like dozens of urban areas across the country, the Salt Lake City area, at times, exceeds air quality standards for ozone as a result of vehicle emissions. Since its Clean Cities designation in 1994, stakeholders from Salt Lake, Weber, Davis, Utah, and Summit counties have put more than 2,600 AFVs on community streets, helping to reduce the amount of vehicle exhaust that contributes to air pollution.

Making an Impact

Salt Lake Clean Cities took the message to heart that Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy Tom Gross delivered at the 1997 Clean Cities Conference. Gross challenged coalitions to find "a few good fleets to support AFVs." By the end of the year, Salt Lake added 26 new participants (21 were private organizations) and received a 1998 U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Award for recruiting the largest number of private fleets to the program.

As stakeholder membership grows, AFV fleet development continues to be a central area of focus for this nonprofit coalition. Salt Lake Clean Cities sponsors an annual "Spring Soiree" to increase awareness about the program and the benefits of alternative fuels and AFVs. The most recent event, held in February 1999, included AFV Jeopardy, a golf tournament, and Ride n' Drives, which featured the latest AFV models from auto manufacturers.

Other successful alternative fuel projects for Salt Lake Clean Cities include:

- Questar Gas, the natural gas utility for the state of Utah, which has a fleet of 850 natural gas vehicles (NGVs) and a full-time salesperson on staff to help sell AFVs. An aggressive champion of NGVs for 20 years, Questar also supported the coalition through generous cash and in-kind contributions.
- Newspaper Agency Corporation, which delivers Salt Lake's two major newspapers using a fleet of 231 alternative fuel vans, out of a fleet of 250 vehicles.
- Salt Lake City International Airport, which runs a fleet of 74 AFVs, including 22 shuttle buses, and offers a credit of up to \$2,300 against ground transportation fees.

Salt Lake Clean Cities also has the third largest compressed natural gas (CNG) and propane-refueling infrastructure in the country, with 98 locations available. The networking efforts of Utah's Department of Administrative Services have given AFV drivers the added benefit of purchasing natural gas at some sites with a special alternative fuel credit card.



Utah Governor Michael O. Leavitt declaring the week of February 15, 1999 as Alternative Fuel Week

Photo courtesy Wm. Brett Graham, Office of the Governor

Going for Gold

Salt Lake believes that its Clean Cities efforts are as good as gold—Olympic gold, that is. Salt Lake City will soon host the 2002 Olympics Winter Games, and thanks to its Clean Cities stakeholders, alternative fuels and AFVs will be there. Over the 16-day event, AFVs will help to transport more than 1.6 million spectators, athletes, officials, volunteers, staff, sponsors, guests, and media representatives. Currently, Salt Lake Clean Cities is working with the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee to enhance the refueling infrastructure and secure loaner AFVs from other regions and donated AFVs from vehicle manufacturers.

Planning for the Future

Much of the credit for this coalition's outstanding progress is a result of its organizational structure. The coalition employs a full-time, paid coordinator to organize the actions of five committees—fleet development, public awareness, executive, legislative, and Olympics. In the coming months and years, these committees plan to seek Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding to buy down incremental costs for AFV acquisitions, develop a fleet mechanics' AFV training program, install new CNG refueling stations, and increase the number of AFVs on the road.

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.

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