

U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Program



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's (DOE) FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies Program (FCVT), Clean Cities contributes to the energy, environmental, and economic security of the United States by reducing our dependence on imported petroleum. Established in 1993 in response to the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct) of 1992, the partnership provides tools and resources for voluntary, community-based programs to reduce consumption of petroleum-based fuels. In almost 90 coalitions, government agencies and private companies voluntarily come together under the umbrella of Clean Cities. The partnership helps all parties identify mutual interests and meet the objectives of reducing the use of imported oil, developing regional economic opportunities, and improving air quality.

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 the petroleum displacement goals. Clean Cities deploys technologies and practices developed by FCVT. These include truck stop electrification and onboard auxiliary power to reduce fuel used in idling trucks, hybrid electric vehicles, the blending of non-petroleum based fuels (such as ethanol or biodiesel) with conventional fuels, higher efficiency vehicles and driving practices, and the cornerstone of the portfolio, alternative fuels. The alternative fuels, which are defined by EPAAct and supported by Clean Cities, include ethanol, biodiesel, hydrogen, electricity, liquefied petroleum gas (propane), and natural gas.

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, care dealers, fuel and equipment suppliers, public utilities, and nonprofit associations. More than 5,500 stakeholders have accepted the invitation to contribute to the partnership's mission. Clean Cities is instrumental in cultivating an advanced transportation community in which people learn about a wide range of options and technologies. In addition, Clean Cities helps create markets for alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), 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.

What kind of assistance does Clean Cities offer?

Clean Cities provides coordinated strategies and technical and funding resources.

At the national level, Clean Cities provides original equipment manufacturers, trade associations, and other federal agencies with coordinated strategies and resources they can leverage to obtain maximum petroleum displacement. Clean Cities also provides coalitions with access to information and grants from DOE, other federal agencies, and industry partners that can fund significant, high-impact projects.

Additionally, Clean Cities provides a large collection of technical data and information, including current data on fuels, vehicles, fueling station and truck-stop electrification locations, infrastructure development, state and federal incentives and laws, technical and outreach publications, and industry resources – all available via the Internet. Finally, Clean Cities offers technical assistance to coordinators as they work to develop infrastructure and market strategies.

What has Clean Cities accomplished?

Since 1993, Clean Cities and its stakeholders have displaced the use of more than 1.6 billion gallons of petroleum.

Clean Cities is integral to many success stories. It has spurred significant gains in the nation's AFV population and associated fueling infrastructure. Clean Cities tracks the activities and accomplishments of its coalitions, translating this to petroleum displacement. This tracking represents only a small percentage of the actual impact of Clean Cities. The program lays the groundwork for local and regional partnerships to increase the use of alternative and advanced vehicles and fuels, which are put into action by the coalitions.

Through local and national events, special emphasis is focused on educating fleet managers and interested stakeholders about Clean Cities technologies. In addition, Clean Cities has created many funding opportunities through a variety of financial support programs, making available millions of dollars and leveraging millions more, in categories such as fuel infrastructure, AFV incremental cost buy-downs, and idle reduction education.

Where can I find more information?

Visit Clean Cities Web resources to find programmatic information, technical data, and information for fleets. Web sites include:

- ⇒ Clean Cities, a web site with information about the program's activities and accomplishments, and an online newsletter with articles about alternative fuels, idle reduction, fuel blends, and fuel economy (www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities).
- ⇒ The fleet section, which includes tools and a step-by-step process to help fleet managers and individuals make informed decisions (www.eere.energy.gov/fleetguide).
- ⇒ The Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC), which provides detailed information on alternative fuels and vehicles and has a searchable database with more than 3,000 relevant documents. The AFDC also features the Incentives and Laws database – a source of current legislative information at the state and national levels (www.eere.energy.gov/afdc).
- ⇒ The Alternative Fuels Station Locator, which searches the AFDC database for fueling stations across the country that offer alternative fuels. (www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/infrastructure/locator.html).

The EERE Information Center, which provides email and telephone assistance on topics related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Inquiries requiring more technical expertise are forwarded to and answered by Clean Cities specialists. (1-877-337-3463).