What Is Clean Cities?

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Vehicle Technologies Program (VTP), Clean Cities is a government-industry partnership that reduces petroleum consumption in the transportation sector. Clean Cities contributes to the energy, environmental, and economic security of the United States by supporting local decisions to reduce our dependence on imported petroleum. Established in 1993 in response to the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 1992, the partnership provides tools and resources for voluntary, community-centered programs to reduce consumption of petroleum-based fuels.

In nearly 100 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 petroleum, developing regional economic opportunities, and improving air quality.

Which technologies are included?

The portfolio provides a range of options and flexibility to meet the petroleum reduction goals.

Clean Cities deploys technologies and practices developed by VTP. These include idle-reduction equipment, electric-drive vehicles, fuel economy measures, and renewable and alternative fuels, such as natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas (propane), electricity, hydrogen, biofuels, and biogas. Idle-reduction equipment is targeted primarily to buses and heavy-duty trucks, which use more than 2 billion gallons of fuel every year in the United States while idling. Clean Cities' fuel economy measures include public education on vehicle choice and fuel-efficient driving practices.

Clean Cities
U.S. Department of Energy

Clean Cities aims to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by promoting alternative fuels and advanced vehicle solutions. *Photo by Pat Corkery, NREL/PIX 17975*

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 10,000 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), fuel economy, idle reduction, and other emerging transportation technologies. 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 reduction and clean air technologies.

The partnership addresses the challenge of moving the United States away from the infrastructure and practices that contribute to dependence on imported petroleum and toward energy independence and security. In support of this challenge, Clean Cities assists the nation in meeting its objectives for renewable and alternative fuel use.

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 reduction. Clean Cities also provides coalitions with access to information and incentives from DOE, other federal agencies, states, and industry partners that can help fund significant, high-impact projects.

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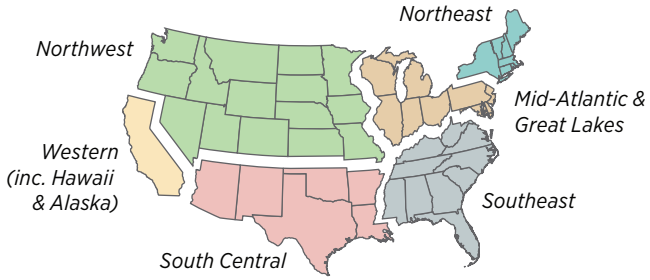

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Geographical Coverage of Clean Cities Coalitions

Maps by Dean Armstrong, NREL

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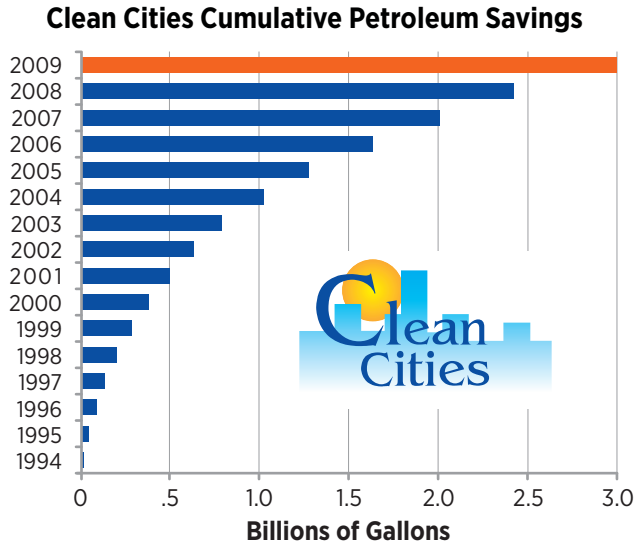

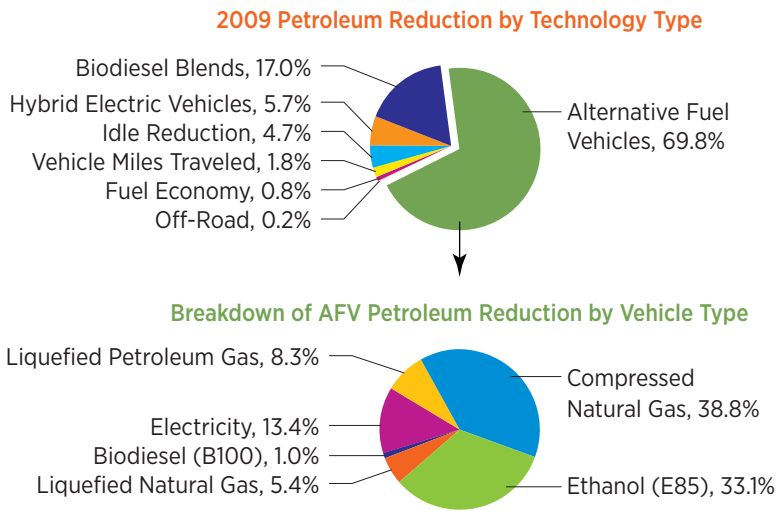

Source: 2009 Metrics Report. Figures by Dean Armstrong, NREL

Additionally, Clean Cities provides a large collection of technical data and information, including current data on fuels, vehicles, fueling station locations, infrastructure development, state and federal incentives and laws, technical and outreach publications, and industry resources—all available online. 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 saved 3 billion gallons of petroleum.

Clean Cities 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 them into petroleum savings. Clean Cities stakeholders annually submit data regarding fuel use, AFV and hybrid electric vehicle deployment, idle reduction initiatives, and fuel economy measures. Clean Cities then analyzes the data to identify equivalent petroleum fuel reduction impacts. 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 renewable fuels, which ripples out from 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 the following DOE Web sites to find programmatic information and technical data.

- **Clean Cities:** This site features program background and accomplishments, program news, and a toolbox (*www.cleancities.energy.gov*).
- **Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles Data Center (AFDC):** This comprehensive site provides detailed information on Clean Cities' five portfolio areas and has searchable databases of more than 3,000 documents and incentives and laws (*www.afdc.energy.gov*). Also available on the AFDC:
  - **Alternative Fueling Station Locator**—Find fueling sites offering alternative fuels across the country (*www.afdc.energy.gov/stations*).
  - **Laws and Incentives**—Search for federal and state incentives and laws about alternative fuels and vehicles (*www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/laws*).
  - **Vehicle Make/Model Search**—Look up specs on alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles (*www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/vehicles*).
- **FuelEconomy.gov:** This site compares gas mileage, emissions, and safety data for new and used vehicles.
- **EERE Information Center:** This service provides assistance on energy topics. Inquiries requiring more technical expertise are forwarded to Clean Cities specialists (1-877-337-3463).

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Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

EERE Information Center
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Prepared by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; NREL is operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

DOE/GO-102011-3378 • October 2011