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 designed to reduce 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 imported oil, 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.

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 8,400 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, and industry partners that can help fund significant, high-impact projects.
Clean Cities Coordinators

CA-Western Riverside County
Jennifer DiCiano
951-955-8587
www.ucrcc.org

CO-Denver
Natalie Swalin
303-847-0271
www.denvercleancities.org

CO-Northern Colorado
Sheble McColloge
970-302-0914
http://northcolocleancities.com

CT-Capital Clean Cities (Manchester)
Craig Peters
800-255-2631
www.ct-ccc.org

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

CT-New Haven
Lee Grans
203-627-3715
www.nhcleancities.org

CT-Norwich
Peter Polubiatko
860-887-6964
www.westernconnecticutcc.org

DE-State of Delaware
Suzanne Sebastian
302-735-3480

FL-Gold Coast (Miami/Fort Lauderdale/ West Palm Beach)
Christine Heshmati
954-985-4416
www.goldcoastclean.com

GA-Atlanta
Don Francis
404-906-0656
www.cleancitiesatlanta.net

GA-Middle Georgia
Charise Stephens
478-803-2506
www.mgacleancities.com

HI-Honolulu
Robert Primiano
808-768-3500
www.honoluluuluclean.org

IA-State of Iowa
Jessica Turba
515-725-0437
www.iowacleancities.org

ID-Idaho Falls
Brian Thompson
208-869-7560
www.idahofallscleancities.com

IL-Chicago
Samantha Bingham
773-444-0820
www.chicagocleancities.org

IN-Greater Indiana
Kelli Walsh
317-995-4380
www.greaterindiana.org

IN-South Shore (Gary)
Carl Lisek
219-644-3690
www.southshoreclean.org

KS/MO-Kansas City
Kelly Gilbert
816-561-1625
www.kcleancities.org

KY-Commonwealth Clean Cities Partnership (State of KY)
Melissa Howell
502-452-9152
www.kentuckycleanfuels.org

LA-Baton Rouge
Lauren Stuart
225-578-9250
www.lacbrc.org

LA-SE Louisiana Clean Fuel
Rebecca Otte
504-483-8513
www.cleanfuelpartnership.org

MA-MA
Stephen Russel
617-626-7325
www.mass.gov/energy/cleanITIES

MD-Maryland
Chris Rice
410-257-0707
www.energystate.md.us/transportation/cleancities.html

ME-Maine Clean Communities
Steven Linnell
207-774-9891
http://mainecleancommunities.gocog.info/

MI-Ann Arbor
Lisa Warshaw
734-585-5720, x23
www.andmichigan.org

MI-Detroit
Maggie Striz Cainin
517-925-8649, x17
www.michiganablecities.org

MI-Two Cities
Lisa Thurstin
616-223-9568
www.cleanairchoice.org/two-cities

MI-Northeastern
Erin Russell-Story
412-386-4726

NE-Nebraska Clean Cities Partnership
Steve Reuter
402-688-4777
www.nerace.org

NH-Granite State (State of NH)
Dolores Rebolledo
603-271-6751
www.granitestatecleancities.org

NJ-New Jersey
Chuck Feinberg
973-886-1655
www.njclean.org

NM-Abilene (State of NM)
Kim Winkler
505-266-0011
www.nmcleancities.com

NC-Charleston
David Jameson
843-768-3030
www.scag.ca.gov/cleancities

OH-Cleveland
Brett Argue
216-681-1788
www.cleancities.com

OR-Central Oregon
Frank Burcham (Albuquerque)
503-997-8300
www.southoregoncleancities.org

PA-Central PA
Maggie Zehnder
717-787-9333
www.pacleanfuels.org

PA-Western PA
Mark Bentley
205-402-2755
www.alabamacleanfuels.org

SD-Central SD
Collin Engel
605-745-7207
www.southdakotaclean.org

TN-Knoxville
Melisa Marsh
865-521-1500
www.kccb.org

TX-Central Texas
Maggie Zehnder
717-787-9333
www.pacleanfuels.org

UT-Utah Clean Cities Partnership
Brett Knapp
801-975-6164
www.utahcleancities.org

VA-Virginia
Maggie Zehnder
717-787-9333
www.pacleanfuels.org

WA-Central WA
Roberta Zita
206-787-5280
www.wa.gov/energy/cleanities

WV-West Virginia
Melissa Howell
502-452-9152
www.kentuckycleanfuels.org

WY-Wyoming Clean Cities
Julie Doering
307-774-9891
www.wyomingcleancities.org

Clean Cities Staff Members are Available to Assist You.

Contacts

DOE Regional Managers

Mike Scarpeno
Northeast Region
michael.scarpeno@netl.doe.gov
412-386-4726

Erin Russell-Story
Mid-Atlantic & Great Lakes Region
erin.russell-story@netl.doe.gov
412-386-7334

Steven Richardson
Southeast Region
steven.richardson@netl.doe.gov
304-285-4185

DOE Headquarters

Dennis A. Smith
Technology Deployment Manager
and Clean Cities Director
dennis.a.smith@ee.doe.gov
202-586-1791

Linda Bluestein
Clean Cities Co-Director
linda.bluestein@ee.doe.gov
202-586-6116

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Mike Scarpeno
Northeast Region
michael.scarpeno@netl.doe.gov
412-386-4726

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erin.russell-story@netl.doe.gov
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steven.richardson@netl.doe.gov
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linda.bluestein@ee.doe.gov
202-586-6116
Geographical Coverage of Clean Cities Coalitions

For the most current list of Clean Cities coordinators, visit www.afdc.energy.gov/cleancities/progs/coordinators.php.
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 nearly 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).