



Alternative Fuel
Information Series

Clean Cities Award Winning Coalition

May 2000

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

Columbia-Willamette, Oregon/Washington

Picking Up Speed in Portland

In November 1994, the Portland Clean Cities Coalition became the 28th Clean City. And Number 28 took off and quickly picked up speed. By the end of 1999, the group had grown so much that it sought re-designation under a new name—the Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities Coalition—to better reflect the much larger geographical area it had come to represent. The coalition now represents two states, encompassing much of southwest Washington and most of Oregon. Several municipal agencies, along with many private companies, are participating in Vancouver, Washington; and in Portland, Eugene, and Salem, Oregon.

With this geographical expansion came an increase in stakeholders, and in 1999 the coalition added a record number of 65 stakeholders, including three local transit districts, two utility districts, three cities, two counties, five alternative fuel original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and numerous other local businesses.

Getting Noticed

Even though the coalition's focus in 1999 was on membership growth, legislative issues did not go unnoticed. The coalition worked hard to expand its base and increase its influence in both the state capitol and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The coalition has participated in events on both levels. In March 2000, the Columbia-Willamette Coalition joined many other coalition coordinators who visited Washington to meet with representatives on Capitol Hill.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Oregon's senior Democratic Representative, recently spoke at a "Transportation 2000 Conference" the coalition

co-sponsored in Portland. Coalition representatives have also held several meetings with Oregon State Senator Frank Shields, a very strong supporter of alternative fuels. Working with Senator Shields, coalition members have assisted in drafting several state legislative measures that have helped clear the way for tax rebates and other enhancements for the widespread adoption of alternative fuels in Oregon.



In addition, the coalition has been fortunate in getting the attention and support of several alternative fuel champions in the Washington State legislature, working closely with Washington State Representative and Speaker Pro Tempore John Pennington, who is strongly backing the alternative fuels initiatives. In both Oregon and Washington, coalition members are following up on other legislative measures that would increase the ability of the states to expand the use of alternative fuels.

Up, Up, and Away...

The Columbia-Willamette Coalition is proud to have formed a "subchapter" made up of airlines and other users of the airport facilities, which functions as a coalition within a coalition. Administrators at Portland International Airport have committed to using an alternative fuel, compressed natural gas (CNG), for their airport support vehicles. Currently, the airport is operating about 40 CNG vehicles with one fast-fill station located on the airport's property. And airport officials have pledged to convert 100%

of their shuttle bus fleet to CNG as vehicles are replaced. The airport is also developing a comprehensive plan designed to coordinate the switch to alternative fuels by all commercial service providers, both air-side and land-side, at the airport.

Reaching Out and Working Together...

In collaboration with several other coalition members—the Port of Portland, Laidlaw Transit, USF Reddaway, and United Bakery—another member, Portland Community College, created an informational film on alternative fuels. The film was released for broadcast on local public television and has been shown at several coalition meetings and related conferences.

The film featured several success stories experienced by coalition members. For example, USF Reddaway has reduced warehouse emissions and is now enjoying a cost savings of more than \$120,000 annually as a result of its switch to CNG operations. Laidlaw Transit has been using propane fuel for more than 10 years and has seen both extended service life and reduced emissions from vehicles. The Port of Portland has adopted CNG fuel and is currently enjoying an annual savings of more than \$35,000, as well as lower emissions.

The Columbia-Willamette Coalition has the active support of all of the major OEM providers—DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Honda, Toyota, and Freightliner. DaimlerChrysler, Ford and General Motors have provided demonstration vehicles for the coalition to share with users, and all the OEMs have provided vehicles for conference displays. In addition, Columbia-Willamette works closely with two engine manufacturers, Cummings and Deere, through one of the coalition members, the Port of Portland. Both manufacturers are doing real service testing and adjustments on their products at the Portland International Airport. These demonstrations have resulted in product improvements and changes.

What's Next?

According to Larry Medearis of the Columbia-Willamette Coalition, his group plans to partner with the Puget Sound Coalition to mentor potential stakeholders in the Spokane area. Plans also call for focusing even more on legislative issues.

About Clean Cities...

The Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government and industry partnership. The program, now in its seventh 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. Almost 80 coalitions and some 3,800 stakeholders have joined to support the Clean Cities Program.

Now in their fourth 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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