



Alternative Fuel  
Information Series

# Clean Cities Award Winning Coalitions

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U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY,  
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## Clean Cities Coalition and Coordinator Awards

*The Clean Cities Program of the U.S. Department of Energy is proud to announce the 2002 Clean Cities Coalition and Coordinator Awards. The awards honor exemplary progress toward specific objectives of the Clean Cities Program, particularly in promoting alternative fuels and vehicles, helping to reduce U.S. dependence of foreign oil, and creating a cleaner environment.*

### **Twin Cities - Movers and Shakers**

—for most alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) added

The Twin Cities coalition of Minnesota is known for promoting E85 ethanol fuel. Last year brought continued success in that arena, with the addition of 2,600 ethanol vehicles, fueled at more than 60 public E85 stations in the area. But other fuels have started to take hold there as well, with 2,409 vehicles using biodiesel, plus 249 powered by propane and six by compressed natural gas (CNG).

The rise of biodiesel in Minnesota stems from joint efforts by farmers and environmentalists. In 2001, proposed legislation boosting biofuels failed to pass in the State Legislature. But in March 2002, Governor Jesse Ventura signed a subsequent legislative proposal requiring all diesel sold in Minnesota to be at least 2% biodiesel. This requirement will be phased in over the next three years. If refiners can produce 8 million gallons per year by 2005, all stations selling diesel will be selling a 2% biodiesel blend.

### **Red River Valley - Movers and Shakers**

—for greatest percent increase in AFVs

Like Minnesota, neighboring North Dakota is covered with bountiful fields of corn and soybeans—feedstocks for ethanol and biodiesel. The Red River Valley Clean Cities Coalition has made the most of its agricultural assets, effecting a dramatic rise in its AFV population. Added in 2001 were 797 AFVs, an increase of 278% over the total of 286 reported in 2000. Grand Forks area additions included five CNG, five propane, five biodiesel and 522 ethanol

### **2002 Outstanding Coordinator Tim Gerlach, Twin Cities**

Blizzards, floods, and fires could not deter Tim Gerlach from securing the Clean Cities designation of the Red River Valley coalition in 1998. Assorted natural disasters had delayed the event by two years, but Gerlach saw it through as the coalition's coordinator. His passion for Clean Cities continued when he moved to Minnesota in 2000. Gerlach was instrumental in building that state's now-thriving Twin Cities coalition, designated on May 31, 2001. In recognition of his efforts before and since that date, Twin Cities coordinator Gerlach is honored as the Clean Cities Outstanding Coordinator for 2002.

Many agricultural states are working to develop markets for biofuels such as ethanol. In Minnesota, a diverse team of government and industry forces lead the nation in doing so, thanks largely to Gerlach's leadership. The Minnesota E85 Team has boosted ethanol sales in Minnesota by 200% in the past two years. E85 now is sold at more than 60 public stations in the Twin Cities area. Gerlach is credited with creating new and innovative ways to educate the public about E85 and flexible-fuel vehicles, and encouraging actual ethanol use. He has also helped forge relationships with corporate partners including Ford Motor Company. On his watch, the Twin Cities coalition secured more than \$800,000 in grants and matching funds last year. The coalition enjoys strong stakeholder involvement, with more than 33 stakeholders and a strong emphasis on fuel provider organizations.

vehicles. The coalition is involved in outreach activities informing AFV owners about E85 stations in Bismarck and Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota.

A Canadian sister city to Grand Forks is Winnipeg, located 145 miles to the north in Manitoba. Winnipeg formed its own chapter of Red River Valley Clean Cities last year, and contributed in a big way to the coalition's AFV growth. More than 200 propane-powered taxis and 30 CNG school buses were logged north of the border in 2001.

**Central Ohio - Eager Beaver Award**

—for most comprehensive program plan

The newly formed Central Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition, based in Columbus, set an example for all by submitting one of the best program plans ever received. Now used as a model for the new coalitions nationwide, the plan illustrates the coalition's understanding of Clean Cities priorities and the importance placed on alternative fuel use and tangible results.

The plan details coalition strategies and objectives focused on increasing alternative fuel use, and includes background information about coalition members. It outlines workshops and classes to be held on AFVs and alternative fuels, describes the local vehicle and infrastructure status, and discusses funding, legislation, mandates, and incentives.

**Texas Coalitions: Alamo Area, Central Texas, Dallas, Houston, Paso del Norte, South Texas - Legal Eagle Award**

—for supporting major AFV legislation

Six coalitions in one state may warrant an award in itself. But the half-dozen Clean Cities coalitions in Texas are honored for a better reason—their collective support of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP). Launched last summer, TERP is a comprehensive plan that provides funding for lower-emission vehicles, cleaner engines, alternative fuels, and infrastructure. The plan was created by state legislation, which also established a source of \$126 million in annual incentives coming partly from vehicle registration and testing fees.

The six coalitions joined forces to form a working group that has, for the past four years, submitted legislation for incentives to put more AFVs on road. In 2001 the group finally succeeded. Motivated by four nonattainment areas in the state, the coalitions worked with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission and the Texas Clean Air Working Group to promote clean air legislation. Representatives from all the coalitions attended meetings, explained how stakeholders could get involved, kept them informed of the status, and urged them to maintain contact with legislative representatives.

**Salt Lake City - Madison Avenue Award**

—for best public outreach

The Salt Lake Clean Cities Coalition has made an Olympian effort to stay in the public eye. It developed a 12-page newspaper supplement titled, "On the Road to Fueling the Future," and an AFV/environmental awareness piece titled "Breathe Easy." These pieces reached an audience of 1.9 million newspaper readers. More than 500,000 copies of each were also distributed to schools.

The coalition also hosted a breakfast to celebrate the passage of legislation allowing AFV drivers to use the

**2002 Rookie of the Year****Jill Egbert, Sacramento**

The inaugural Clean Cities "Rookie of the Year" award goes to Jill Egbert, chair of the Greater Sacramento Regional Clean Air Coalition (GSRCAC). From the moment she took the helm of the coalition in July 2001, Egbert demonstrated her understanding of the Clean Cities goals, ideals, and principles. In the last year she has focused her considerable energy, enthusiasm, and entrepreneurship on revitalizing the GSRCAC and increasing its role in local clean air debates. Her accomplishments include expanding the coalition's Board of Directors, forming strategic partnerships with the Alternative Fuels Forum and other local clean air advocacy groups, increasing funding opportunities for members of the coalition, and getting existing funds into the hands of coalition members more efficiently.

Working with other coalition members, Egbert says she has strived to get Clean Cities "on the map" locally through public outreach efforts. She has also documented annual displacement of nearly 10 million gallons of petroleum fuel by alternative-fuel heavy duty vehicles in the region. Egbert says she joined Clean Cities because "I believe alternative fuels are our future and our children's future," adding that her 12-year old son now knows how to fuel a CNG vehicle.

high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane on Interstate 15 in Utah's north-south corridor. The event was covered by three local television stations, and included refreshments, giveaways, a cash drawing, and an AFV caravan along I-15.

**Sacramento - Rain Maker Award**

—for most grants/funds leveraged

The hard work associated with writing grant proposals paid off for Sacramento Clean Cities Coalition stakeholders in 2001. It resulted in more than \$24 million in funding for AFV programs, coming from the Sacramento Emergency Clean Air and Transportation Program and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. The projects covered natural gas refuse trucks, school buses, and infrastructure.

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