

What's New: Fall 2003 Update

State Fleet Outreach Effort

DOE is currently contacting officials in several states in an effort to increase compliance with State & Alternative Fuel Provider (S&FP) regulations.

DOE's goal is to identify state agencies currently not reporting and determine whether they are covered by S&FP regulations. This is an ongoing activity throughout the country. To assist in this initiative, DOE developed a draft self-audit document that state officials are encouraged to use to ensure their fleets are in compliance with the AFV acquisition regulations. For more information or to request a copy of the self-audit document, contact the Regulatory Information Line at (202) 586-9171, regulatory_info@afdc.nrel.gov.

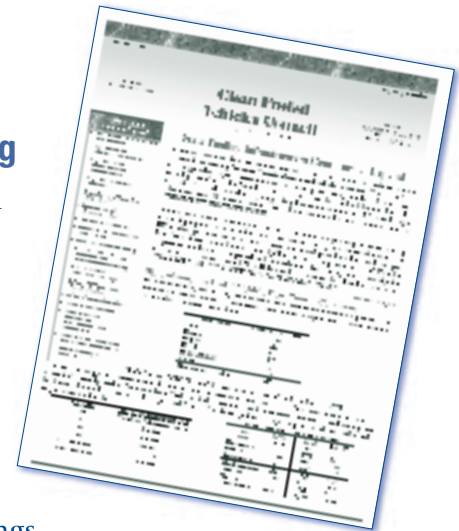
Training Course Coming Soon

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded a grant to develop a curriculum for trainers to train alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) operators. The course will cover practical aspects of alternative transportation fuels, specifically propane, compressed natural gas (CNG), biodiesel, electricity, and E85. The course offers an overview of each fuel's properties and characteristics, including an emphasis on health and safety issues; fueling station and handling safety practices; emergency action plans; safety equipment needs; vehicle applications; and fueling procedures. The contractors are currently setting up "train the trainer" workshops in areas with high concentrations of federal, state, and utility AFV drivers. The first workshops, designed for trainers, will be held in Sacramento, Denver, and the Washington, D.C. metro area.

New York State AFV Program Progressing

The New York Clean Fuel Vehicle Council's July 2003 newsletter highlights a number of the state's dynamic alternative fuel related activities. It describes recent alternative fuel station openings, upgrades to stations to increase capacity, and moving underused stations to better sites.

New York has also held a number of training sessions to make sure state government drivers and mechanics are familiar and comfortable with using alternative fuels. To read more, download the newsletter at www.ogs.state.ny.us/cleanfuels/newsletter200307.pdf.



Fall Fleet Checklist

- ✓ Complete model year (MY) 2003 annual report, and submit it to DOE no later than December 31, 2003.
- ✓ Check the Clean Cities Vehicle Buyer's Guide (www.ccities.doe.gov/vbg/fleets/) for available 2004 AFVs.
- ✓ Talk to vehicle suppliers and make plans to acquire MY 2004 AFVs.
- ✓ Check with fuel suppliers regarding the availability of biodiesel blends and alternative fuels.



MY 2004: AFV Availability Update

Fleets can expect changes to the lineup of AFVs offered by automakers in MY 2004. Ford and Mazda will no longer offer flexible fuel compact pickups in MY 2004. Instead, Ford will continue to offer the flexible fuel Explorer Sport Trac, which has a four-door sport utility cab and a small pickup bed. The Sport Trac can meet the needs of fleets that traditionally buy compact pickups. Ford's F-150 pickups, which run on CNG or liquefied propane gas, will also be available in 2004. Because new F-150 pickups are being introduced, the alternative fuel models are available only as F-150 "Heritage" pickups, which will be sold alongside the new conventional F-150s during MY 2004.

Chrysler Corporation is discontinuing its flexible fuel minivan offerings in 2004 because their engines are changing. It is also discontinuing the Chrysler Sebring flexible fuel convertible. The Stratus and Sebring midsize sedans, however, will continue to be available.

Chrysler will no longer offer its CNG Dodge Ram van, as it is discontinuing the company's B-series vans and wagons. Chrysler will, however, offer a 2004 flexible fuel Dodge Ram pickup (with 4.7L V-8), which will be available in two- and four-wheel drive in regular and Quadcab configurations.

Nissan is discontinuing the Altra-EV, a midsize electric wagon that was available to select California fleets.

General Motors, however, will continue to offer all of the AFVs it offered in MY 2003. These include the CNG and flexible fuel Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra and the flexible fuel Chevy Tahoe, GMC Yukon, and Chevy Suburban.

As always, fleets are encouraged to contact suppliers early to learn about AFV ordering time restrictions or equipment availability. For a complete list of MY 2004 AFV offerings, visit the Clean Cities Vehicle Buyer's Guide at www.cities.doe.gov/vbg/fleets/.

New flexible fuel offerings for 2004 include the Ford Explorer Sport Trac (top) and a Dodge Ram pickup (middle). The 2004 F-150 Heritage pickup (bottom) is powered by CNG.



Weick Photo Database



Weick Photo Database



Weick Photo Database



Warren Gretz, NREL/PX 07133

E85 Stations Continue to Expand

A growing number of fleets are developing their own ethanol infrastructure and/or using public E85 stations.

In general, there has been a lot of growth in the number of E85 fueling stations this year. According to the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC), approximately 60 new E85 stations are planned to open by the end of 2003. Many of them have benefited from NEVC funding. For information concerning funding availability, contact NEVC at (573) 635-8445, www.e85fuel.com.

If your organization has installed a new alternative fueling station, we hope you'll add it to the Alternative Fuels Data Center's (AFDC) Alternative Fuel Station Locator and Route Mapper (www.afdc.doe.gov/refueling_mapsite.shtml).

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Facts & Figures

AFV Acquisitions, Biodiesel Use, Credit Trading Increased in MY 2002

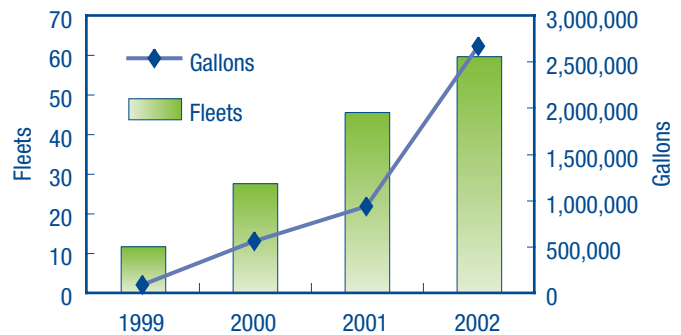
Covered fleets in MY 2002 once again acquired more than 10,000 new AFVs and had a compliance rate of more than 95%. Details on these statistics, as well as information on biodiesel fuel use and credit trading, are outlined in the recently published S&FP annual report, "Activities and Accomplishments in MY 2002/FY 2003."

Most notable for MY 2002 is a 184% increase in biodiesel fuel use over MY 2001. Sixty fleets, or 20% percent of covered fleets, used 2.6 million gallons of biodiesel, compared to 939,000 gallons in the previous year. As a result, biodiesel credits also increased in MY 2002. Credit trading also increased slightly in MY 2002, with fleets trading nearly 800 credits. In fact, recent data show that fleets continue to show strong interest in buying and selling credits.

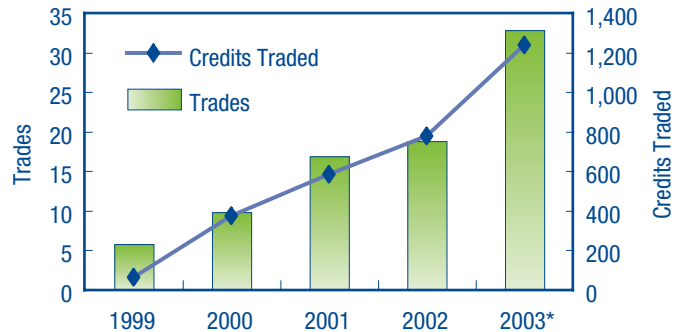
The charts at right show a steady increase in biodiesel use and credit trading since 1999.

For more information, download the annual report from the EPAAct Web site at www.ott.doe.gov/epact/pdfs/2003_annual_report.pdf.

Biodiesel Use



Credit Trading Activity



* This number could increase further

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Simply call up the submission form at www.afdc.doe.gov/refuel/stations_add.html, fill in your information, and click Submit. The database tracks both public and private stations for statistical purposes.

New CD Offers CNG Resources

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Marathon Technical Services recently published "Compressed Natural Gas—A Collection of Resources," a CD that offers information on CNG. The CD includes four presentations that focus on the history and properties of CNG, CNG safety standards, CNG station sizing and budgeting calculators, and qualitative and quantitative analysis of CNG compressors. To order a CD, contact the National Alternative Fuels Hotline at (800) 423-1363, hotline@afdc.nrel.gov.

What is EPAAct?

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAAct) was passed by Congress to reduce the nation's dependence on imported petroleum. Provisions of EPAAct require certain fleets to purchase AFVs. DOE administers these requirements through its State & Fuel Provider Regulations, Federal Fleet Regulations, Private & Local Government Regulations, and Alternative Fuel Petition Regulations.

For more information, visit www.ott.doe.gov/epact, or call the Regulatory Information Line at (202) 586-9171.

Legislative Update

As we went to press, the House-Senate conference committee was meeting to work out differences on the two versions of the energy bill. If passed by Congress, there may be additional ways for covered fleets to earn credits. If these changes to EPAAct fleet requirements are preserved and funded, DOE will issue guidance and rules and post them on the S&FP Web pages at www.ott.doe.gov/epact/state_fleets.shtml.



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A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.

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