



Alternative Fuel  
Information Series

# Clean Cities Award Winning Coalition

May 1999

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

## Chicago Area Clean Cities

### Working on Goals

When Chicago received its Clean Cities designation from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in 1994, the Chicago Area Clean Cities (CACC) Coalition set five goals:

- incorporate as many alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) as possible into regional fleets
- develop a fueling network for the region
- educate fleets and the public on the benefits of alternative fuels and vehicles
- raise the profile of alternative fuels and AFVs
- coordinate funding efforts to support these goals.

In 1999, as CACC marks its five-year anniversary, the coalition can reflect on the progress they've made toward those goals, as well as their accomplishments in advancing Chicago's alternative fuel and vehicle market, increasing coalition membership, helping support new AFV legislation, and educating fleet managers.

### Making an Impact

CACC currently counts among its 91 stakeholders industry, government, environmental, and academic organizations, with memberships continuing to grow. In 1998, CACC received DOE's Clean Cities **Empire Award** for adding the most new stakeholders. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated CACC members, a variety of AFVs can now be seen on Chicago's streets, including transit and school buses, taxicabs, sedans, vans, and trucks.

CACC has had remarkable success working with the Illinois State legislature. In 1998, the coalition supported the passing of SB184, an alternative fuels incentive law. This law, also known as the Illinois Alternate Fuels Rebate Program, provides rebates to individuals who purchase a new AFV, convert a vehicle to alternative fuel, or purchase domestic renewable fuel to operate an AFV. The rebates account for 80% of the additional cost

to purchase an AFV over a traditional vehicle or 80% of the additional cost to purchase alternative fuel up to \$4,000 per vehicle. In recognition of its active support of this major legislation, CACC is the recipient of the 1999 Clean Cities **Legal Eagle Award**.

In addition, the coalition secured a \$2 million Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program grant to fund the development of a regional alternative fuel network. CACC is teaming up with the Chicago Department of the Environment to administer the program, which will provide funds to local municipalities to build infrastructure. As the program gets underway, CACC will also work with regional high schools to incorporate AFVs into driver education programs.

Another program success for CACC is its comprehensive education program. The coalition hosted 15 introductory seminars and 10 advanced workshops for regional fleet managers. CACC also sponsored eight daylong forums, which provided the latest information on mandates, vehicle offerings, available tax incentives, and other funding opportunities. The forums included "Ride and Drives" as well.



The rewards of owning an AFV

Photo courtesy of Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition

## Celebrating Achievements

In July 1999, CACC will celebrate its alternative fuel and AFV accomplishments with "sister" Clean Cities in southeast Wisconsin and northwest Indiana. CACC is planning a gala event to generate awareness of the Clean Cities Program and its alternative energy and clean air benefits. The evening will also serve to formalize a commitment to work with neighboring Clean Cities to place more AFVs within the three-state area.

## About Clean Cities...

The Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government and industry partnership. The program, now in its sixth 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. At least 70 coalitions and some 3,500 stakeholders have joined to support the Clean Cities Program.

Now in their third 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.cities.doe.gov>  
*or*
- e-mail the Clean Cities Hotline at [ccities@nrel.gov](mailto:ccities@nrel.gov).

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