

Program Overview

Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition

Promoting Alternative Fuels And Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs)

The US Department of Energy (DOE) Clean Cities program currently involves about 90 communities and metropolitan areas throughout the nation and is locally represented by the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition (CCFC). Clean Cities works directly with local businesses and governments to establish a grass roots-based foundation for a viable alternative fuels market. Then, by sharing local innovation along the Clean Cities network, “mayor-to-mayor and coalition-to-coalition,” by relating local problems to state and federal objectives, and providing continuous feedback to 1,000’s of industry and government stakeholders, Clean Cities continually pioneers innovations and aspires to affect national as well as local achievements.

Purposes: The Clean Cities program was established by the U.S. Department of Energy as a voluntary, locally based government/industry partnership to:

- Decrease dependence on foreign oil/provide greater fuel choices
- Advance clean air objectives
- Create new jobs and commercial opportunities
- Increase public awareness of AFVs, fuel economy, and hybrid vehicles
- Expand AFV refueling infrastructure
- Facilitate alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) production

Structure: The CCFC’s Core Stakeholder Group, made up of 21 stakeholder representatives, actively participates in leading and advising staff with targeted initiatives. Additional stakeholders are informed through newsletters, email updates, the Coalition web site and participation in a variety of working groups. CCFC members are primarily businesses, industries, local governments, and public services with vehicle fleets or fuel related interests.

Coverage: Centralina Council of Governments (COG) staff directs the CCFC using matching funds from COG and grant funds from the North Carolina State Energy Office, the DOE and others. While housed at COG, the nine-county Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition has developed and grown from an idea to a DOE designated Clean Cities member in 2004 to a regional leader in the promotion of alternative fuel and clean transportation technology today.

Local Roles: Stakeholders voluntarily commit to supporting the CCFC. Stakeholders are free to choose a level of involvement that best reflects its needs. Participation can range from occasional information sharing to seeking grant funding for relevant projects to playing a leadership role in the program and region.

How This Program Could Help You: This program provides **technical assistance** to stakeholders with a variety of projects that could include the purchase of natural gas or propane buses, the construction of publicly available refueling stations, educational programs, development of “clean corridors,” etc. Each of these actions dovetails nicely with the broader objective of ensuring cleaner air in the region, creating economic opportunity, and reducing our nation’s dependence on traditional petroleum products.

CCFC Staff are available to assist stakeholders with **grant applications**, overcoming logistical barriers (i.e. fuel storage and delivery), evaluating a project’s potential effectiveness (i.e.-data on fuel economy, fuel and vehicle cost/maintenance, etc.), and **presenting complex information** to new audiences.

For more information about alternative fuels and vehicles, please visit Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition at www.4cleanfuels.com or contact Jason Wager at 704-348-2707.