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## News Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Alternative fuel vehicles highlight Omniplex exhibit**

OKLAHOMA CITY - From the science of extreme machines to the science of alternative transportation fuels, *Driving America's Future*, an educational walkthrough exhibition of current production alternative fuel vehicles will be on display at Omniplex, **Nov.22 - Jan.4, 2004**. These vehicles are designed to run on a variety of domestic fuels from natural gas to vegetable oil.

"Alternative fuels are available today and are a viable option to America's increasing dependence on imported petroleum," said Yvonne Anderson, Clean Cities Program Manager at the Association of Central Oklahoma Government. "Our Clean Cities program is proud to sponsor this exhibit as a compliment to Monster Trucks: The Science of Extreme Machines, which also happens to run on methanol rather than gasoline."

This 5,500 square-foot exhibit discusses the positive effects of alternative fuels in automobiles and will open in conjunction with the automotive art-driven exhibition featuring Charlie Maher & Randy Yarbrough. The exhibit seeks to educate the public on clean domestic fuel choices they can make when choosing a vehicle and will also provide details into the future of fuel-driven cars.

Alternative fuels as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Energy Policy Act of 1992 include domestic fuels such as natural gas, coal-derived liquid fuels, methanol, and propane, as well as renewable fuels including ethanol (E85), biodiesel fuel, electricity, and hydrogen.

"What many people don't know is that there is a solution to America's dependence on foreign oil and that solution lies right here, right now in our own backyard," said Anderson. More than 40,000 late-model vehicles on Oklahoma's highways are flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) capable of running on E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. More than 3 million FFVs have already been sold in the United States. Ethanol

is produced by fermenting various grains such as corn, barley or wheat. Ethanol can also be produced from "cellulosic biomass" such as trees and grasses and is called bioethanol.

The state's first two E85 refueling sites opened in Oklahoma City this year and both are public fueling stations. Five additional public access E85 stations are planned for Central Oklahoma area in the next year.

There are more than 1,200 individual and fleet vehicles that run on compressed natural gas in Oklahoma, Anderson said. Oklahoma has 70 CNG refueling sites and of those, 31 are public fueling stations. The rest are either private or government-owned sites.

Anderson said the Clean Cities *Driving America's Future* exhibit will showcase a wide cross-section of vehicles that run on a variety of alternative fuels and are used successfully in fleets and by individuals everyday. In addition, the Segway, a very exciting newcomer to human transport will be on display and is sure to intrigue adults and children alike, along with several alternative fuel racecars.

A number of local car dealerships who are members and friends of the Clean Cities program including Bob Howard Auto Group, Cable Volkswagen, Eskridge Honda, Hudiburg Auto Group, and Joe Cooper Ford, are providing alternative fuel vehicles for the display as well as Clean Cities government and private industry members including the city of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Natural Gas, the University of Oklahoma, OGE Energy Corp., and the Environmental Management Office at Tinker Air Force Base.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government/private industry partnership whose goal is to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel, accelerate the deployment of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and build a local AFV fueling infrastructure. Clean Cities supports the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the Clean Air Act and its 1990 Amendments, seeks to reduce national dependence on imported oil, and promotes the creation of commercial opportunities, new jobs and new businesses in the alternative fuels industry. There are 84 Clean Cities coalitions in communities throughout the United States with more than 4,700 stakeholders including many businesses, government agencies, trade and professional associations, non-profit organizations, and individuals.

For more information about alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, visit ACOG's Clean Cities web site at [www.okcleancities.org](http://www.okcleancities.org) or the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities web site at [www.cities.doe.gov](http://www.cities.doe.gov).

Omniplex, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is located in the heart of Oklahoma's Adventure District at 2100 NE 52nd Street in Oklahoma City. Hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$7.50 for adults (13-64) and \$6 for seniors (65+) and children (3-12), plus tax. Combo admission including Monster Trucks and/or an OmniDome theater film is available for an additional charge.

For more information, call (405) 602-OMNI or visit the Omniplex Web site at [www.omnplex.org](http://www.omnplex.org).