



association of central oklahoma governments

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NEWS RELEASE

July 11, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Energy program priming pumps for biofuels

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments' Clean Cities office wants to give the state's convenience stores and petroleum marketers a leg up into the world of retail biofuels sales and distribution.

Recent federal tax credits for ethanol and biodiesel producers and distributors, plus high gasoline and diesel fuel prices have readied the market for a biofuels production and sales surge. Added to the tax incentives is the desire by many in government and industry to diversify their fleets' fuel supplies and reduce dependence on imported petroleum.

ACOG's Clean Cities Program Director Yvonne Anderson said some of the program's industry and government stakeholders in central Oklahoma have been buying transport loads of ethanol and biodiesel fuel for the past several years because there have been few retail outlets for the fuels. But, with a \$150,000 appropriation to install new storage tanks and ethanol pumps at area fuel stations, that is about to change.

ACOG is soliciting requests for proposals to install new pumps or to retrofit existing equipment to dispense ethanol-blended fuel in central Oklahoma. Anderson said equipment purchased using the appropriated funds must meet E85 specifications, but retailers can contract to sell either E10 or E85. A blend of 90 percent gasoline and 10 percent ethanol, E10 can be used in all gasoline-engine vehicles commercially sold in the United States. Vehicles classified as "flex-fuel" can use

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any blend of gasoline and ethanol up to 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Consumers can determine if a vehicle can use E85 by checking the owner's manual, looking in the engine compartment for a notice that states the vehicle can use E85, or checking the vehicle's fuel door or cap for information.

The United States spends more than \$2 billion per week on petroleum imports. Fully half of the oil imported is used to produce gasoline to fuel light- and medium-duty cars and trucks.

Anderson said, "By blending gasoline with renewable fuels like ethanol, and petroleum diesel with biodiesel (a fuel made from vegetable oils or animal fats) oil supplies can be extended, new jobs can be created, national energy security can be strengthened, the environment can benefit, and consumers can see price reductions at the pump."

ACOG's Clean Cities request for proposals to install storage tanks and fuel pumps for ethanol-blended fuel in Central Oklahoma is posted on the ACOG web site at www.acogok.org.

In 2003, ACOG's Clean Cities program opened the state's first retail E85 pumps in Oklahoma City with a \$58,000 grant from the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition and the U.S. Department of Energy. Also in 2003, the City of Edmond received a \$72,000 Clean Cities Special Projects grant from the Department of Energy to install E85 and biodiesel storage tanks and dispensers at its new Cross Timbers Municipal Complex. That complex is due to open later this year and the fuels will be used in city vehicles.

Clean Cities is a nationwide government-industry initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Its mission is to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, idle reduction technologies, hybrid electric vehicles, fuel blends, and fuel economy. Locally, the Central Oklahoma Clean Cities program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, and more than 50 government and industry stakeholder members. There are more than 80 active Clean Cities coalitions in metropolitan areas across the country representing nearly 5,000 stakeholders.

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