

# National Clean Cities, Inc.

## Who We Are

National Clean Cities, Inc. represents a broad array of public and private partners working to reduce our nation's dependence on imported petroleum. Our mission is to support coalitions working at the local and state level to develop projects to increase use of alternative fuels, such as biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, natural gas and propane, as well as efficient vehicles and energy-saving transportation technologies.

Our members have a valued alliance with the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program, which provides strategic focus, technical assistance and modest grant support. The Clean Cities program has grown to over 80 coalitions.

With minimal federal support, these Clean Cities coalitions leverage tens of millions of dollars each year in projects to increase our nation's energy independence, strengthen our economy and improve air quality. Clean Cities is one of those rare federal programs that enjoys strong grassroots support while being able to document continually improving results – even while budget allocations have remained flat.

## We Support

### 1. Additional Funding for the Clean Cities Program

In fiscal years 2004 and 2005, the appropriation (Interior Committees) for this program was approximately \$11 million, of which approximately \$6 million was available for competitively awarded grants for projects to acquire alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure in 2004 and \$4 million in 2005.

*For FY 2006, the proposed budget is only \$6.5 million! The decrease is due to the misconception that there is a reduced need for financial assistance for additional alternative fuels refueling facilities. Unfortunately, nothing could be further from the truth! Lack of refueling stations remains the single greatest obstacle to increased use of alternative fuels – and one that can be overcome with modest investments. Modest investments for incremental vehicle costs to permit use of alternative fuels, advanced technology vehicles, and retrofits to reduce vehicle idling will also yield economic, environmental and energy security benefits.*

## Our Request

§ Please register your support for increased Energy and Water Development appropriations of \$15 million over the FY 05 amount of \$10.6 million, to be designated to the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program.

For more information contact Greg Zilberfarb, Executive Director  
National Clean Cities, Inc.

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## We Support

### 2. Legislation For Alternative Fuels And Advanced Technologies

Such legislation includes tax incentives for all alternative fuels, and legislation that will improve the energy security of the U.S. while assisting in the transition to a hydrogen economy.

## Our Request

§ We urge your support for the CLEAR Act. This legislation would provide tax incentives for deployment of alternative fuels and vehicles and refueling stations. It has been included in the Senate version of the Energy Bill.

## Why We Support These Options

Alternative fuels, such as electricity, natural gas, propane, biodiesel, ethanol and hydrogen, efficient vehicles such as hybrids, and energy-saving transportation technologies such as idle reduction equipment reduce motor vehicle emissions and provide domestic economic benefits. Most importantly, they increase U.S. energy security by reducing our dependence upon foreign sources of petroleum. The stability of our transportation future, and perhaps even the nation's economy, rests upon our ability to diversify fuel sources and increase energy efficiency in transportation.

## Why do we need your help?

Current federal investments do not adequately meet the need to address this critical challenge. Federal support for hydrogen and fuel cell research and development are an important part of developing long-range solutions. However, investments in R&D alone fail to fully capitalize on the many strategies that will reduce petroleum dependence today.

The over 80 Clean Cities Coalitions represent thousands of stakeholders nationwide. These Coalitions staffed by a network of dedicated professionals and supported by volunteers, have proven their capability of using federal dollars to leverage many times this support in local and private resources. Their efforts throughout many Congressional districts are making a difference in America's drive for Energy Independence.

*PS The latest news reports predict a 25 cents per gallon cost increase for gasoline due to the high cost of crude! We need Energy Independence now!*

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