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Clean Vehicles Make Cents

*Alternative Fuels and Clean Air Technologies Contribute to Savings
at the Pump, and Improve Air Quality*

June 1, 2006 (Arlington, Texas) – Alternative fuels and other clean air technologies have displaced more than 1 billion gasoline gallon equivalents of petroleum since 1994, according to U.S. Department of Energy. This is significant because the U.S. now imports approximately two-thirds of the petroleum it uses.

As the North Texas region continues to struggle with poor air quality, alternative fuels and clean air technologies also play an important role in helping improve air quality by emitting less harmful pollutants and exhaust emissions.

Alternative fuels are quickly becoming more accessible in the region. Locations of stations that provide propane, compressed natural gas (CNG), biodiesel and other alternative fuels can be found through the U.S. Department of Energy's website:
<http://afdcmap2.nrel.gov/locator/findpane.asp>

They're also adding up to savings for drivers, costing around 50 cents per gallon less than regular gasoline in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Other clean air technologies, such as hybrid electric vehicles, are continuing to grow in popularity and are now offered by numerous auto manufacturers in compact, sedan and sport utility models. Hybrid electric vehicles use a small motor and an electric engine to generate the power to drive the vehicle, and require no special refueling. (See attached description of all alternative fuels available.)

Even gasoline-powered vehicles can contribute to cleaner air by running more efficiently. Properly inflated tires, regular oil changes and annual safety and emissions inspections can improve air quality.

Financial assistance is available for residents unable to make needed repairs on vehicles that fail the state emissions test. More than 10,000 North Texans have received assistance through the AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Assistance Program.

Local public and private organizations in the Dallas-Fort Worth region are leading the way in using alternative fuels and clean technologies. Cities such as Coppell, Dallas, Farmers Branch and Fort Worth include alternative fuel or hybrid technologies in their

fleets, and both Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Fort Worth Transit Authority operate buses fueled by natural gas. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport has used compressed natural gas, propane and hybrid electric vehicles since 1991.

To encourage more local governments to incorporate clean vehicle technologies in their fleets, the North Central Texas Council of Governments is offering approximately \$4.2 million in federal dollars to public entities in the region to replace or convert vehicles to cleaner technologies. This funding program provides a way to reduce emissions in the region.

Clean Vehicle Month

June is Clean Vehicle Month, part of Commute Solutions Season in North Texas. From May through October, the North Texas Clean Air Coalition promotes alternatives to drive-alone commuting through advertising, employer outreach, e-mail campaigns, media relations and a Web-based Commuter Challenge. Every month has a different commute solutions theme.

July is Try Transit Month

August is Vanpool/Carpool Month

September is Telecommute Month

October is Employer Recognition Month

About the North Clean Air Coalition:

The North Texas Clean Air Coalition was formed in 1993 to educate North Texans about air quality and encourage individuals to “do their share for cleaner air.” Members of the NTCAC include the North Central Texas Council of Governments, North Texas Commission, Greater Dallas Chamber, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T), the Denton County Transportation Authority, and numerous individuals and businesses.

Types of Alternative Fuels

Biodiesel: Biodiesel is a domestically produced, renewable fuel that can be manufactured from vegetable oils, animal fats, or recycled restaurant greases. Biodiesel is safe, biodegradable, and reduces serious air pollutants such as particulates, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and air toxics. Blends of 20% biodiesel with 80% petroleum diesel (B20) can generally be used in unmodified diesel engines.

Electric: Electricity can be used as a transportation fuel to power battery electric and fuel cell vehicles. When used to power electric vehicles, EV, electricity is stored in an energy storage device such as a battery. EV batteries have a limited storage capacity and their electricity must be replenished by plugging the vehicle into an electrical source.

Ethanol and ethanol blends: Ethanol is an alcohol-based alternative fuel produced by fermenting and distilling feedstocks such as corn, barley, or wheat. Ethanol is most commonly used to increase octane and improve the emissions quality of gasoline, but can also be blended with gasoline to create E85, a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. Vehicles that run on E85 are called flexible fuel vehicles and are offered by several vehicle manufacturers.

Hybrid electric motors: Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) are continuing to grow in popularity and are now offered by numerous auto manufacturers. HEVs are efficient vehicles that use a small motor and an electric engine to generate the power to drive the vehicle. HEVs are sometimes referred to as alternative fuel vehicles because they utilize electricity to power the vehicle, but are classified as advanced technology vehicles.

Hydrogen: Hydrogen has been used effectively in a number of internal combustion engine vehicles as pure hydrogen mixed with natural gas. In addition, hydrogen is used in a growing number of demonstration fuel cell vehicles. Hydrogen and oxygen from air fed into a proton exchange membrane fuel cell "stack" produce enough electricity to power an electric automobile, without producing harmful emissions.

Natural gas, compressed or liquid: Natural gas is domestically produced and readily available to end-users through the utility infrastructure. It is also clean burning and produces significantly fewer harmful emissions than reformulated gasoline or diesel when used in natural gas vehicles. In addition, commercially available medium- and heavy-duty natural gas engines have demonstrated over 90% reductions of carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter and more than 50% reduction in nitrogen oxides (NO_x) relative to commercial diesel engines.

Propane: Propane or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is a popular alternative fuel choice for vehicles because there is already an infrastructure of pipelines, processing facilities, and storage for its efficient distribution. Besides being readily available to the general public, LPG produces fewer vehicle emissions than gasoline. Propane is produced as a by-product of natural gas processing and crude oil refining.

Car Care Tips for Improving Air Quality

- Worn spark plugs or clogged fuel injectors can reduce fuel efficiency by up to 30%. For a driver that travels only 15,000 miles per year, this can cost an extra \$500 for gas during the year.
- Improperly inflated tires can decrease fuel efficiency by up to 8%. Over a year's time, based on 15,000 miles per year, this failure can cost an extra \$135.
- Car maintenance is not only important for the environment, it is an important safety decision. Each year 2,600 deaths and 100,000 disabling injuries occur because of car neglect.
- Check the air filter approximately every other oil change. A clean air filter allows the vehicle to perform most efficiently.
- The rubber seal around your gas cap can deteriorate, releasing vapor which reacts with air creating ozone pollution. Check and replace the cap if necessary about every three years.
- Regularly scheduled vehicle maintenance can easily save you hundreds of dollars per year, add life to your car, and help lower air pollution.