



Alternative Fuel  
Information Series

Clean Cities

# Award Winning Coalition

October 1999

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY  
OFFICE of ENERGY EFFICIENCY and RENEWABLE ENERGY

## Maricopa Clean Cities Coalition

### Starting Strong

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council initiated the Maricopa Clean Cities Program on June 20, 1995. Its purpose was to encourage the use of alternative fuels in the Maricopa region and to obtain recognition for the steps the region had already taken to support the use of alternative fuels. As Arizona's first Clean Cities Coalition, the Maricopa Clean Cities Program received its official designation on October 8, 1997. The Clean Cities stakeholders include representatives from fuel providers, local governments, school districts, state and federal agencies, and private companies. The coalition was off to a strong start with nearly 2,100 alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) already on the road at the time of its designation. It is estimated that more than 10,000 AFVs may be cruising the streets of Maricopa County by 2005.

### Charging Toward the Future

Since its designation, the Maricopa Clean Cities Program has continued to make great strides toward "moving and shaking" the AFV development in Arizona. In fact, its stakeholders added more than 1,000 AFVs in 1998, including 826 compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles, 25 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles, and 155 liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicles, which brings the total AFVs to nearly 4,300. This landed them the 1999 Movers & Shakers Award, which was bestowed at the 5th National Clean Cities Conference and Exposition in May 1999.

Maricopa Clean Cities has also placed significant emphasis on AFV infrastructure. Currently, the public has access to 36 inductive and conductive charging stations, five LPG stations, and six CNG stations in the Phoenix metropolitan area. In addition, two LNG public access stations are under construction.

### Incorporating AFVs

The Maricopa Clean Cities stakeholders continue to create stimulating alternative fuel projects. In one project,

the city of Tempe has ordered 30 hybrid electric buses, which will operate on LNG turbines to maintain an 80 percent battery charge. The first vehicle is scheduled to arrive in October 1999, and delivery of the entire order is expected by February 2001.

The Deer Valley School District also continues to find innovative ways to use alternative fuels. Beginning with this school year, the district will be using biodiesel in its school buses. In addition to biodiesel, Deer Valley School District also uses ethanol, CNG, and electricity. It is estimated that its alternative fuel usage will increase from approximately 150,000 to 2,000,000 gallons (or equivalent gallons) per year.

### Progressing with Legislation

One key element to Maricopa Clean Cities' success is the strong support it receives from the Arizona legislation. Alternative fuel legislation—including the state Senate bill that established Arizona's Clean Air Fund—has jump-started the AFV movement in Arizona. This fund provides grants for commercial and home/small business fueling stations. In fiscal year 1998–1999, the Arizona Clean Air Fund provided \$6.5 million to alternative fuel projects. Although federal programs (such as CMAQ) provide grants similar in scale, the Arizona Clean Air Fund provides an unprecedented amount of funding for a state program.



Alternative fuel vehicle license plate in Maricopa County

Photo courtesy of Ben Silva, MAG

In addition to the Arizona Clean Air Fund, other legislation supports alternative fuel projects. State tax credits are available for purchasing and leasing AFVs and for fueling infrastructure. State and local sales taxes have been eliminated for purchasing AFVs. The vehicle licensing tax has been drastically reduced for AFVs, which can save almost \$400 in the first year for a \$20,000 vehicle. The state fuel tax has been eliminated and AFVs have access to high occupancy vehicle lanes.

## Upcoming Activities

Stakeholders in the Maricopa Clean Cities Coalition are currently conducting a series of issue forums. The topics include Repairing Alternative Fuel Vehicles; Funding for Alternative Fuel Vehicles; Increasing the Number of Fueling Sites; Increasing the Number of Off-Road Alternative Fuel Vehicles; Cost of Alternative Fuel Vehicles; and Creating Awareness of Alternative Fuel Vehicles.

Other activities include developing a buying cooperative for private fleets, organizing a statewide alternative fuel forum (tentatively scheduled for April 2000), surveying private and public fleets on AFV activities, and developing a local resource guide for alternative fuels, as well as a regional fueling station plan.

## Planning for the Future

The Maricopa Clean Cities stakeholders are committed to increasing the number of AFVs and developing the infrastructure to support those vehicles. The coalition plans to involve more private fleets and continue to work with various alternative fuel associations.

MAG Executive Director James M. Bourey says the regional stakeholders have experience and expertise that can be shared. "MAG is pleased to provide forums for these stakeholders to communicate and learn from one another," said Bourey. "In sharing resources and ideas, we can make tremendous strides in promoting alternative fuels and their use."

## About Clean Cities...

The Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government and industry partnership. The program, now in its sixth year, seeks to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel in order to reduce dependence on imported oil, lessen air pollution, and increase public awareness about the benefits of using alternative fuels over gasoline and diesel. More than 75 coalitions and some 3,500 stakeholders have joined to support the Clean Cities Program.

Now in their third year, the Clean Cities Coalition Awards recognize outstanding achievements in building coalitions, promoting and increasing alternative fuel vehicle use, developing AFV infrastructure, and supporting alternative fuel and AFV legislation.

For more information, you can

- contact the Clean Cities Coordinator listed below
- call the Clean Cities Hotline at 1-800-CCITIES
- visit the Clean Cities Web site at <http://www.ccities.doe.gov>  
or
- e-mail the Clean Cities Hotline at [ccities@nrel.gov](mailto:ccities@nrel.gov).

Maricopa Clean Cities Coordinator:  
Anne MacCracken  
602-254-6300  
e-mail: [amaccracken@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:amaccracken@mag.maricopa.gov)



The Office of Energy Efficiency  
and Renewable Energy

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office of Transportation Technologies

Prepared by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)  
NREL is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory  
Operated by Midwest Research Institute • Battelle • Bechtel

NREL/FS-540-27138  
October 1999

Printed with a renewable-source ink on paper containing at least 50%  
wastepaper, including 20% postconsumer waste