



Utah Clean Cities Coalition

451 So. State St., Suite 336  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Tel 801-535-7736 • Fax 801-535-6331  
[www.utahcleancities.org](http://www.utahcleancities.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Steve Chapman  
(801) 324-5548  
[steve.chapman@questar.com](mailto:steve.chapman@questar.com)

### **Beyond a Billion: Utah Clean Cities Coalition to Celebrate Nationwide Petroleum Savings**

SALT LAKE CITY – Utah Clean Cities Coalition will join Clean Cities coalitions across the country on Friday, Oct. 14, to celebrate displacing more than a billion gallons of oil. This is significant because the U.S. now imports approximately two-thirds of the petroleum it uses. With oil prices at \$68 per barrel, Americans are now spending approximately \$300 billion per year for imported petroleum; about \$200 billion of this is for the transportation sector alone. That is, we are spending more than \$3.5 billion each week to fuel the economies of other countries when we could be fueling ours by investing in domestic fuels like ethanol or biodiesel.

Clean Cities, part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office, builds strong, self-sustaining partnerships with industry, stakeholders, fleets, fuel suppliers, and business partners with the goal of decreasing petroleum use. The nation's 88 Clean Cities coalitions focus on alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, fuel blends, heavy-truck idle reduction applications, and general fuel economy improvements to help reduce the nation's need for imported oil.

Through those efforts, the Clean Cities initiative has reached the milestone of displacing one billion gasoline-gallon equivalents of petroleum, enough gas to fuel two million cars for a year. By promoting the use of less oil, the Clean Cities coalitions have improved the nation's energy, economic, and environmental security.

Clean Cities coalitions are holding events nationwide to commemorate the "billionth gallon saved." In Salt Lake City, the Utah Clean Cities Coalition is hosting a public celebration at the Salt Lake City International Airport from 10:30 a.m. to noon on October 14. The event will include a press conference and showcase every type of alternative-fuel vehicle now in use in Utah: from the airport's natural gas-powered garbage and dump trucks to its slow-

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speed electric service trucks; Jordan School District CNG (compressed natural gas) school buses; biodiesel- and ethanol-fueled sedans, vans and pickups; electric scooters and electric hybrid cars. State and local officials will speak, and private and commercial fleets that have committed to lower-cost, cleaner fuels will be recognized. Exhibitors will provide displays and information on various alternative-fuel applications, vehicle conversions and other money-saving transportation strategies. There will be a natural gas refueling demonstration and a cake-cutting commemorating Utah Clean Cities Coalition's eleventh anniversary and the launch of its newly designed website offering a wealth of useful information on alternative fuels and alt-fuel vehicles. Refreshments will be served.

"With October designated Energy Awareness Month, this event couldn't be more timely," said Beverly Miller, Utah Clean Cities Coalition Executive Director. "In the wake of record oil prices and the recent passage of the Energy Policy Act – which includes incentives for alternative fuels – consumers and fleet managers are looking for relief and information on ways to meet the energy challenges we face. There's no need to wait. Real alternatives are available now. For 11 years, Clean Cities has accumulated a vast amount of information and solutions for reducing America's dependence on petroleum and enhancing air quality and our country's security in the process. We'll be sharing this knowledge with the public on Oct. 14.

"By passing the billionth gallon milestone," Miller added, "Clean Cities coalitions have shown they are making a difference on a local level and a national level. While our thirst for oil puts our economic and energy security at risk, Clean Cities coalitions across the country are demonstrating options that work."

Utah (formerly Salt Lake) Clean Cities Coalition is one of 88 coalitions around the country that are part of the U.S. Department of Energy's strategy to reduce America's dependence on imported foreign oil. Utah Clean Cities promotes the following energy security strategies: alternative fuel vehicles, low-fuel blends, fuel economy, hybrid electric vehicles and idle reduction. Locally, alternative fuels include compressed natural gas, propane, and to a lesser degree, ethanol and biodiesel. Since October, 1994, Utah Clean Cities has grown to an independent, non-profit organization made up of approximately 65 government and private organizations. Utah Clean Cities' office is in the Salt Lake City and County building. It's Honorary Chairperson is Salt Lake City Mayor Ross "Rocky" Anderson.

For more information visit: <http://www.utahcleancities.org> or <http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities>

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