



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 28 CLEAN FLEET LEADERS IN SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA RECOGNIZED FOR REDUCING 4.3 MILLION GASOLINE GALLONS EQUIVALENT THROUGH THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS, FUEL-SAVING TECHNOLOGIES, AND INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

On July 10, 2018 the Regional Planning Commission's Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership recognized 28 fleets and organizations in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa parishes that incorporated alternative fuels, fuel saving technologies, and innovative transportation programs in 2017. Their combined efforts **set two new regional records** by **reducing traditional fuel consumption over 4.3 million gasoline gallons equivalent** (GGEs), reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and **preventing over 30,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions**, the air quality equivalent of **taking 6,521 typical passenger vehicles off the road** according to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.epa.gov). Some of the coalition's Clean Fleet Leaders include:

- **Airport Shuttle:** A coalition member since 2008 who now powers all 30 of their shuttles with propane. General Manager Don Duvernay is a regular presenter at the coalition's propane-focused events and participants appreciate hearing from a fleet owner with his depth of experience.
- **Jefferson Transit:** The transit provider for Jefferson Parish was the first transit fleet in southeast Louisiana to use biodiesel. They recently converted 12 paratransit vehicles to propane. These alternative fuels compliment their idle reduction and fuel economy efforts which include improved maintenance, replacing air filters more frequently, and increased tire pressure monitoring.
- **RTA:** The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority was another early adopter of alternative fuels, using electricity to power streetcars along St. Charles Avenue since 1894. RTA uses biodiesel and hybrid buses and is exploring electric buses for their future fleet.
- **Solar Alternatives:** A solar-panel and EV charger installation company with a fleet including a plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles. President Jeff Cantin generously shares his expertise on incorporating electric drive vehicles in fleets with other coalition stakeholders.

The event also celebrated the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership's **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** as a U.S. Dept. of Energy (USDOE) designated Clean Cities coalition. In a [congratulatory video](#), Mark Smith, USDOE Technology Integration Program Manager highlighted the coalition's efforts over the last decade and some of the many stakeholders dedicated to improving energy efficiency and cleaner transportation:

*"The U.S. Department of Energy values the commitment of coalition stakeholders in southeast Louisiana and across the national network of Clean Cities coalitions. Stakeholders who participate in local coalitions benefit from partnerships they build with one another. Fleets connect with alternative fuel providers. Business owners meet up with local government leaders. Fleet managers learn from the experiences of their peers who have taken on successful projects. Vehicle dealerships connect with municipalities and utilities. Clean Cities coalitions serve as a forum for all the puzzle pieces to come together for successful transportation projects."*

For fleets interested in exploring alternative fuel and advanced vehicle options to reach their energy and economic goals, the US Dept. of Energy's [Alternative Fuel Data Center](#) website is an excellent resource with tools, maps, case studies, and publications.

**UPCOMING EVENT:** On October 24, 2018, the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership will be hosting the [2018 Clean Fuels Summit](#) at NOLA Motorsports Park featuring alternative fuel informational sessions, lunch, exhibits, giveaways, and an exclusive Ride & Drive. For event details or to register, [click here](#).

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**28 Clean Fleet Leaders in Southeast Louisiana set regional records for reducing traditional fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in 2017; Photo by Hunter Thomas**

**About the Regional Planning Commission ([www.norpc.org](http://www.norpc.org))**

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) serves Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, St. John the Baptist and St. Charles Parishes. The Commission includes local elected officials, transportation agency representatives and citizen members appointed to represent their communities on regional issues. The Commission is supported by a staff of professionals with broad experience, and doctorates or masters degrees, in a variety of areas including urban and regional planning, community development, economics, engineering, government, history, law, landscape architecture, political science, sustainable development, transportation, geography and other disciplines.

**About the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership ([www.cleanfuelpartnership.org](http://www.cleanfuelpartnership.org))**

RPC's Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership is the U.S. Department of Energy-designated Clean Cities coalition covering 8 parishes in Southeast Louisiana and is supported by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. The Clean Fuel Partnership facilitates efforts to incorporate alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies in fleet operations.

**About US Department of Energy's Clean Cities Coalitions ([www.cleancities.energy.gov](http://www.cleancities.energy.gov))**

**Clean Cities Mission:** The U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities initiative advances the nation's economic, environmental and energy security by supporting local actions to cut petroleum use in transportation. A national network of nearly 100 Clean Cities coalitions brings together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to deploy:

- Alternative and renewable fuels (biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, hydrogen, natural gas, propane)
- Idle-reduction measures
- Fuel economy improvements
- Emerging transportation technologies

The Clean Cities model consists of **local coalitions taking action in their communities, with the help of federal resources and expertise.** At the national level, Clean Cities provides a vast array of information resources, financial assistance, technical expertise, online tools, and networking opportunities. At the local level, Clean Cities coordinators tailor projects and activities to meet the unique needs of communities and their stakeholders. Clean Cities coalitions serve as forums for local stakeholders to connect and collaborate. Through coalitions, stakeholders learn from one another's experiences, replicate one another's successes, and collaborate on projects and events. By collaborating on alternative fuel deployment projects, stakeholders can create economies of scale and tipping points of demand that help transform local markets.