

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA  
CLEAN FUEL PARTNERSHIP



PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER FOR CLEANER FUEL  
A STRONGER ECONOMY - A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

# Clean Fuel Newsletter

February 2016

[www.CleanFuelPartnership.org](http://www.CleanFuelPartnership.org)

## Upcoming Events

[Click Here for Upcoming Webinars](#)

### EUEC 2016: Energy, Utility & Environment Conference

February 3-5, 2016  
San Diego, CA  
[www.euec.com](http://www.euec.com)

### Energy Independence Summit 2016

February 7-9, 2016  
Washington, DC  
[conferences.stagedrightevents.com/energyindependencesummit](http://conferences.stagedrightevents.com/energyindependencesummit)

### National Ethanol Conference 2016

February 15-17, 2016  
New Orleans, LA  
[nationalethanolconference.com](http://nationalethanolconference.com)

### 2016 The Work Truck Show/Green Truck Summit

March 1-4, 2016  
Indianapolis, IN  
[www.ntea.com/worktruckshow](http://www.ntea.com/worktruckshow)

### International Biomass Conference & Expo

April 11-14, 2016  
Charlotte, NC  
[www.biomassconference.com](http://www.biomassconference.com)

### Louisiana Alternative Fuels Conference & Expo 2016

April 14, 2016  
Lafayette, LA  
<http://louisianacleanfuels.org/meetinginfo.php?id=19&ts=1454433919>

## [New Clean Cities Resources Available!](#)

### EV Day NOLA 2015: New Orleans' First Electric Vehicle Expo:

Clean, domestic electric transportation is growing by leaps and bounds each year, and New Orleans has been a quiet success story in the South. On Saturday, November 14, 2015, the city celebrated its first Electric Vehicle Day at Whole Foods Market on Broad Street.

[Read More](#)

### What is the Clean Cities Annual Report?:

Every year, the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) asks each Clean Cities Coalition to submit an Annual Report of their activities and accomplishments for the previous calendar year which is then compiled into the [Clean Cities Annual Metrics Report](#).

[Read More](#)

### Clean Cities Technical Response Service (TRS): What is renewable natural gas (RNG) and can it be used to fuel vehicles?

RNG is pipeline-quality natural gas made by collecting and purifying biogas, the methane produced from decomposing organic matter. Biogas can be collected from sources such as landfills, livestock, restaurants, hospitals and more. [Read More](#)



## Attention Clean Fleet Leaders!

Submit your fleet's clean fuel transportation accomplishments in 2015 to be recognized at our next [Clean Fleet Leader Awards!](#)

To be recognized, send the following information to [slcfp@norpc.org](mailto:slcfp@norpc.org):

- Fleet Name & Contact Person
- Number of Vehicles
- Vehicle Class (Light- or Heavy-Duty)
- Vehicle Type
- Fuel Type
- Amount of Alt Fuel Used (indicate unit, e.g. gallons of propane, gasoline gallons equivalent, kWh, etc.)



The submission deadline is **February 28, 2016**.

**Help us surpass our goal of 3 million gasoline gallons reduced in 2015!**

10 VETERANS BOULEVARD · NEW ORLEANS, LA · 70124  
[SLCFP@NORPC.ORG](mailto:SLCFP@NORPC.ORG) · PHONE 504.483.8500

[www.CleanFuelPartnership.org](http://www.CleanFuelPartnership.org)



## EV Day NOLA 2015: New Orleans's First Electric Vehicle Expo

Clean, domestic electric transportation is growing by leaps and bounds each year, and New Orleans has been a quiet success story in the South. On Saturday, November 14, 2015, the city celebrated its first Electric Vehicle Day at Whole Foods Market on Broad Street and held a groundbreaking ceremony for the store's installation of new Electric Vehicle signage. This free public event coordinated by [EV-LA](#) heightened the awareness of the widespread availability and benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.



Whole Foods groundbreaking ceremony at EV Day, New Orleans 2015

Local electric vehicle owners explained how charging works and why they choose to drive an electric car. Attendees sat in the driver's seat to see up-close the many technological features of electric vehicles. Vehicles on display included the Chevrolet Volt, Nissan Leaf, Mitsubishi i-MiEV, Tesla Model S, Smart Electric Drive, BMW i3 and a 1980 conversion Electra Van. Owners and enthusiasts agreed that EVs are fun to drive, better for the environment, less expensive to operate, and with home charging, more convenient to fuel than gasoline-powered vehicles.



Attendees explore features of the Tesla Model S

Event exhibitors included Nissan North America, Whole Foods Market, Solar Alternatives, ChargePoint EV Chargers, and the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership. Whole Foods hosted the event and provided fresh samples of seasonal treats. Solar Alternatives utilized its Mobile Solar Generator to solar-charge electric vehicles. Guests were amazed that electric vehicles could literally be fueled by sunshine! Demonstration units of ChargePoint commercial and home charging systems gave attendees a better understanding of charging dynamics. Nissan North

America raffled a Nissan Leaf Power Bank to guests who signed in at the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership booth which provided U.S. Department of Energy handouts on electric vehicles along with information on federal and state alternative fuel tax credits.

Interested in seeing more? [EV-LA](#), Louisiana's electric vehicle community network, produced a video of the event: "[Electric Vehicle Day, New Orleans, 2015](#)".

### **Additional Resources:**

- For more information about electric vehicles, please visit the [Alternative Fuels Data Center's Electricity Section](#) or view a copy of the [Plug-In Electric Vehicle Handbook for Consumers](#).
- Find electric vehicle charging stations by address or ZIP code or map a route using the [Alternative Fueling Station Locator](#).
- Interested in joining New Orleans electric vehicle group, EV-LA? Please email [info@ev-la.org](mailto:info@ev-la.org).



## What is the Clean Cities Annual Report?

Every year, the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) asks each Clean Cities Coalition, including the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership, to submit an Annual Report of their activities and accomplishments for the previous calendar year. The information submitted includes coalition membership and funding as well as clean transportation projects and activities including the use of alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles; idle-reduction initiatives; fuel economy activities; and programs to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The National Renewable Energy Lab and Department of Energy analyze the data from nearly 100 Clean Cities Coalitions nationwide and translate it into petroleum-use and greenhouse gas reduction impacts for the program as a whole in the [Clean Cities Annual Metrics Report](#).

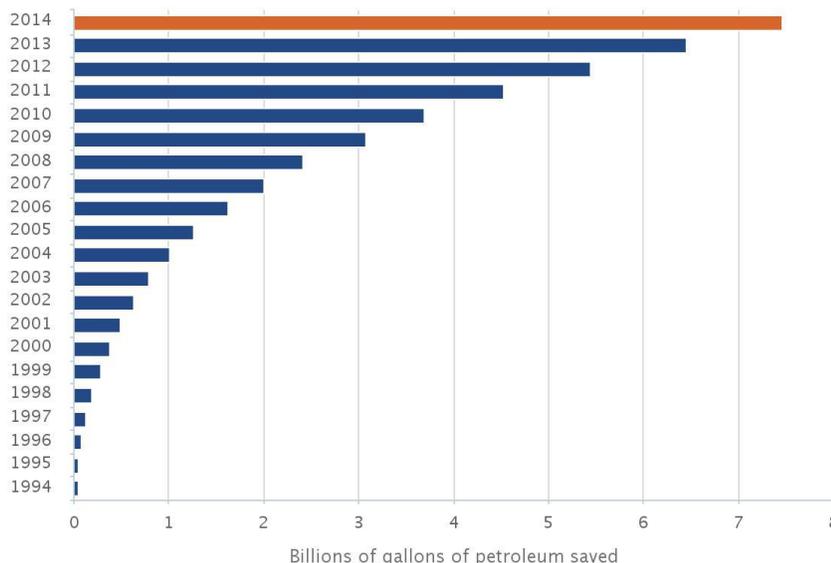
The Clean Cities Program is on track to meet its goal of saving **2.5 billion gallons of petroleum per year** nationwide by 2020 by employing the following three strategies:

- **Replace** petroleum with alternative and renewable fuels, including natural gas, propane, electricity, E85, biodiesel, and hydrogen.
- **Reduce** petroleum consumption through technologies and strategies that improve fuel efficiency.
- **Eliminate** petroleum use through idle reduction and other fuel-saving technologies and practices.

Since its inception in 1993, Clean Cities has eliminated the need for nearly **7.5 billion gallons of petroleum** through alternative fuel use, fuel economy improvements, idle-reduction measures, and other strategies.



**Cumulative Clean Cities Petroleum Savings**

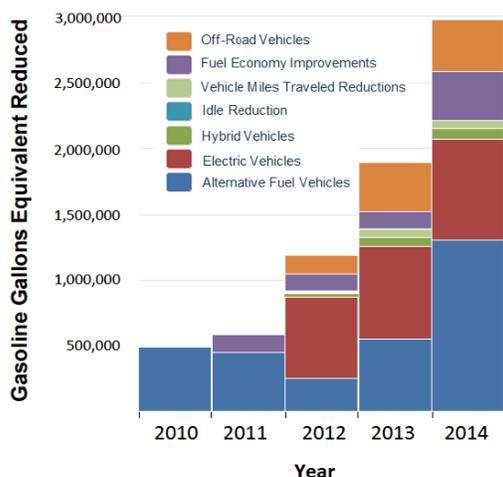


Source: Clean Cities Annual Metrics Report



Over the past 5 years, the coalition partners in the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa that comprise the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership (SLCFP) have reduced the equivalent of **over 7 million gallons of gasoline!**

### SLCFP Historical Gallons of Gasoline Equivalent (GGEs) Reduced



Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership's 2014 Clean Fleet Leaders

## ***SUBMIT YOUR TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A CLEAN FLEET LEADER AND BE INCLUDED IN OUR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT!***

To be recognized as a Clean Fleet Leader, send the following information to [slcfp@norpc.org](mailto:slcfp@norpc.org):

- Fleet Name & Contact Person
- Number of Vehicles
- Vehicle Class (Light- or Heavy-Duty)
- Vehicle Type
- Fuel Type
- Amount of Alt Fuel Used (indicate unit, e.g. gallons of propane, gasoline gallons equivalent, kWh, etc.)

The submission deadline is **February 28, 2016**.

## **HELP US SURPASS OUR GOAL OF 3 MILLION GASOLINE GALLONS REDUCED IN 2015!**

### ***Additional Resources:***

- Learn more about these strategies US Department of Energy's Clean Cities Five-Year Strategic Planning: [https://cleancities.energy.gov/files/pdfs/strategic\\_plan.pdf](https://cleancities.energy.gov/files/pdfs/strategic_plan.pdf) and recent planning meeting for the next Strategic Plan: <https://cleancities.energy.gov/events/568>.
- To view charts on the total Petroleum Savings by all Clean Cities Coalitions including a breakdown by technology, by vehicle/fuel type and station type, please visit the U.S. DOE Clean Cities website: [www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/accomplishments.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/accomplishments.html).
- The Clean Cities 2014 Annual Metrics Report is available at: [www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/2014\\_metrics\\_report.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/2014_metrics_report.pdf).

*Information in this article compiled from the [2014 Clean Cities Annual Metrics Report](#)*



## Clean Cities Technical Response Service (TRS): What is renewable natural gas (RNG) and can it be used to fuel vehicles?

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) is pipeline-quality natural gas made by collecting and purifying biogas, the methane produced from decomposing organic matter. Biogas can be collected from sources such as landfills, livestock operations, wastewater treatment plants, food manufacturing and wholesalers, supermarkets, restaurants, and hospitals. Once purified to remove contaminants and increase its heat content, the gas is called RNG and is a “drop-in” fuel that can be transported with conventional natural gas in pipelines, dispensed at the same fueling stations, stored in the same storage tanks, and used in natural gas vehicles without any engine modifications.

Despite its advantages, there are only 60 operational RNG production facilities in the United States. Many more use the biogas to generate electricity. This is due to federal and state programs, such as the federal Investment Tax Credit and state renewable portfolio standards, which incentivize the use of biogas for power generation rather than for vehicle fuel.



### Production

The purification process for biogas is called conditioning or upgrading, and it involves removing water, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, and various contaminants and trace elements. From there, RNG can be compressed to make renewable compressed natural gas (R-CNG) or super-cooled to make renewable liquefied natural gas (R-LNG). RNG is produced from feedstocks that come from a wide range of industrial sectors, many of which already collect and process biomass as part of their daily operations:

- **Landfills:** Landfill gas (LFG) is collected from decomposing waste in landfills. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), landfills are the third largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States. Landfills account for 70% of the operational RNG projects in the United States. One of the largest LFG-to-vehicle fuel projects is Waste Management's Altamont Landfill near Livermore, California. This project produces up to 13,000 gallons of R-LNG each day to fuel 300 refuse trucks.
- **Livestock Operations:** Animal manure can be collected and taken to an anaerobic digester for RNG production. A few farms across the country have started to use biogas to produce RNG vehicle fuel, including Hilarides Dairy in California and Fair Oaks Dairy in Indiana.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plants:** Approximately 9% of the more than 16,000 wastewater treatment plants in the United States use anaerobic digestion to produce biogas. The Janesville Wastewater Treatment Plant in Wisconsin is an example of a plant that uses biogas to produce RNG for use in vehicles.
- **Other Biomass Sources:** RNG can also be produced from lignocellulosic material, such as crop residues and dedicated energy crops, through thermochemical conversion, co-digestion, and dry fermentation. These technologies are being used in Europe, but have limited applications in the United States. RNG also can be produced from food waste, either alone or in conjunction with biosolids from livestock operations or wastewater treatment plants. CleanWorld Partners' Sacramento BioDigester and quasar's Central Ohio BioEnergy project convert food waste to RNG for vehicle fueling.



### RFS2 Compliance

RNG qualifies as a cellulosic biofuel under the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2) program. In fact, RNG accounted for more than 50 million renewable identification numbers (RINs) in 2014 – 98% of all cellulosic biofuel RINs. According to organizations that track biofuels market data, cellulosic biofuel RINs were valued at \$0.70– 0.85 per diesel gallon equivalent in 2014; this value is expected to increase in the future.

### Other Benefits

Like conventional natural gas, RNG can be produced domestically and can displace the petroleum currently being imported for transportation use. RNG also has practically a net zero carbon impact. On a lifecycle basis, RNG accounts for fewer greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than most currently available motor fuels. RNG can reduce GHG emissions by 95% compared to conventional gasoline and diesel fuel. This is partially because capturing biogas from landfills and livestock operations can reduce GHG emissions by preventing methane releases that were occurring into the atmosphere. Additionally, RNG produced through anaerobic digestion eliminates odors and results in nutrient-rich liquid fertilizer as a by-product. Also, biogas feedstocks are plentiful, so RNG could make use of the 450 million pounds of municipal solid waste dumped in landfills, 160 billion pounds of food waste generated, or the 500 million tons of animal waste produced each year.

### Barriers

Like conventional natural gas, the main barriers to RNG are lack of vehicle availability and fueling infrastructure, though efforts are underway to address both of these obstacles. RNG production costs currently exceed those for conventional natural gas, especially for small-scale operations. Small-scale RNG production can cost around \$5.50–\$9.00 per million British thermal units (BTU) compared to \$4.50 for conventional natural gas. Additional financing and incentive opportunities, as well as state renewable portfolio standards that encourage the investment in biogas for vehicle fuel production, may spur additional production.

### More Information

For more information on RNG, please see the following additional resources:

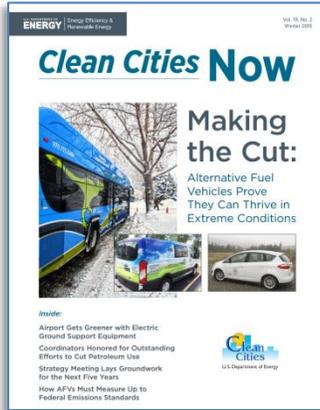
- Alternative Fuels Data Center's RNG Production page: [www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/natural\\_gas\\_renewable.html](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/natural_gas_renewable.html)
- Clean Cities' presentation: *RNG and RINs*: [https://cleancities.energy.gov/files/u/news\\_events/document/document\\_url/73/1 -  
\\_Mintz RNG 062915 final posting.pdf](https://cleancities.energy.gov/files/u/news_events/document/document_url/73/1_-_Mintz_RNG_062915_final_posting.pdf)
- American Biogas Council: [www.americanbiogascouncil.org](http://www.americanbiogascouncil.org)
- Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program: [www3.epa.gov/lmop/index.html](http://www3.epa.gov/lmop/index.html)
- Environmental Protection Agency's AgSTAR Program: [www2.epa.gov/agstar](http://www2.epa.gov/agstar)

Information provided by:  
Clean Cities Technical Response Service Team  
[technicalresponse@icfi.com](mailto:technicalresponse@icfi.com)  
800-254-6735



## New Clean Cities Resources Available

Please Note: Publication notices are provided for informational purposes only. Neither the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership nor the Regional Planning Commission is responsible for the information presented in the announcements, webinars, conferences or publications themselves. Please contact hosts for additional information on specific publications.



### Latest Edition of Clean Cities Now!

**Clean Cities Now** is the official newsletter of Clean Cities, a U.S. Department of Energy initiative designed to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative and renewable fuels, fuel economy improvements, idle-reduction measures, and new technologies, as they emerge. The **Clean Cities Now Winter 2015 Issue** includes articles on:

- Airports With Electric Ground Support Equipment
- Clean Cities Coordinators Honored for Outstanding Efforts
- Strategy Meeting Lays Groundwork for the Next Five Years
- How AFVs Must Measure Up to Federal Emissions Standards

### USDOE New Release Publication: Long-Haul Truck Idling Burns Up Profits

Long-haul truck drivers perform a vitally important service. In the course of their work, they must take rest periods as required by federal law. Most drivers remain in their trucks, which they keep running to provide power for heating, cooling, and other necessities. Such idling, however, comes at a cost; it is an expensive and polluting way to keep drivers safe and comfortable. **Long-Haul Truck Idling Burns Up Profits** discusses the increasingly affordable alternatives to idling that not only save money and reduce pollution, but also help drivers get a better night's rest.



### New Website Launched: Plugin Louisiana

The Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership's partner coalition, Louisiana Clean Fuels, recently launched **Plugin Louisiana** to spur the growth of electric vehicle use and infrastructure in Louisiana and supports the U.S. Department of Energy's **Workplace Charging Challenge**. Information includes:

- Facts on Electric Vehicles and Charging Station Locations.
- Resources on State Laws and Tax Incentives.
- The latest News on electrifying Louisiana.



The **Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership** is part of a network of almost 100 US Department of Energy-designated Clean Cities Coalitions nationwide. We provide education, technical assistance, funding information and other services to assist vehicle fleet managers and personnel incorporate cleaner transportation options into their operations. For additional information on cleaner transportation options, please visit the U.S. Department of Energy's **Alternative Fuels Data Center** and **Clean Cities** websites.