



**FOR RELEASE**

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**Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition designated as Alabama's first  
Clean Cities Coalition**

***Increases access to federal funds for alternative fuel use in  
Alabama***

**(Birmingham, AL)** – The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC) became the state's first Clean Cities coalition in a designation ceremony today at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Renewable Energy Conference in Auburn. One of only 87 in the country, the U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities designation provides the ACFC with access to tremendous research and funding resources to further its mission of reducing our dependence on foreign oil and improving air quality in Alabama, while increasing investment in local economies through the promotion of alternative fuels.

"The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to get things done by forming effective partnerships, finding innovative ways to leverage resources, and motivating communities to rally together for a common cause," said Dennis Smith, National Clean Cities Director and Technology Deployment Manager for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Vehicle Technologies.

Clean Cities is a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) voluntary program that provides a framework for local businesses and governments to work together as a coalition to build the community's alternative transportation fuel market. The addition of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition will improve the success of DOE's National Clean Cities program to reduce petroleum consumption. According to the 2008 Clean Cities Annual Metrics Report, 412 million gallons of gasoline were displaced in 2008 alone, putting its 15-year total over 2.4 billion gallons. The program reduced carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, which is part of greenhouse gas formation, by 2.7 million tons, equal to taking 507,000 cars off the road. Most importantly for Alabama, the designation provides access to federal funds to increase alternative fuel use. In 2008, Clean Cities programs were able to leverage \$12.5 million in the budget for programs into \$34 million in grant money and \$66 million in coalition grants.<sup>1</sup>

"The Clean Cities designation could have a tremendous positive impact on our state," says Phillip Wiedmeyer, president of Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition. "Alabama has the potential to be a leader in alternative fuel

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<sup>1</sup> National Renewable Energy Laboratory, "Clean Cities Annual Metrics Report 2008," Link: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/pdfs/46424.pdf>

production, distribution, and per capita consumption based on past patterns, abundant natural resources and growing infrastructure. Designation provides the ability to leverage significant federal financial incentives to garner local and private capital to make it happen.”

According to statistics from the Energy Information Administration, Alabama currently ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in total energy production<sup>2</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in total energy consumption per capita<sup>3</sup> from all energy sources.

To date, the ACFC has worked with communities including Gadsden, Auburn, Birmingham, Hoover, and many more to create unique programs to increase their utilization of alternative fuels. Due in part to the efforts of the ACFC, several communities around the state now recycle cooking oil into biodiesel that is then used to fuel municipal vehicles. The program reduces fuel costs as well as saving on spending to clean clogged sewer lines.

The two most well-known accomplishments the ACFC collaborated on are the City of Hoover and Gulf Coast Energy wood waste-to-fuel project and the development and opening of the I-65 Biofuels Corridor. Both projects were the first of their kind in the country.

The Hoover-Gulf Coast Energy program takes wood debris collected from public works activities and residential yard waste and turns it into ethanol to fuel municipal flex-fuel vehicles. This program not only offers promise for lessening demands on landfills; it also provides much promise for the next-generation of ethanol produced from non-foodstuff products. Media nationwide reported on the event, including coverage by the *New York Times*.

In October of 2008, the coalition worked with state agencies and officials in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana to develop the nation’s first biofuels corridor along Interstate 65. The I-65 Biofuels Corridor provides the public with access to biofuels at stations located within a quarter tank of each other from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes. Since it’s opening last year, the Alabama portion of the corridor has pumped over one million gallons of biofuels.

Clean Cities designation formalizes the ACFC’s many activities and accomplishments adding credibility to the coalition, expanding opportunities for developing creative projects, and providing broader access to networks and educational resources of the Clean Cities program. Approval also stands as a testament to the dedication and continuing efforts of ACFC stakeholders and members.

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<sup>2</sup> Energy Information Administration, State Ranking, 2007, Link: [http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state\\_energy\\_rankings.cfm?keyid=60&orderid=1](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_rankings.cfm?keyid=60&orderid=1).

<sup>3</sup> Energy Information Administration, State Ranking, 2007, Link: [http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state\\_energy\\_rankings.cfm?keyid=89&orderid=1](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_rankings.cfm?keyid=89&orderid=1)

The ceremony featured remarks by Dennis Smith, U.S. Representative Artur Davis (AL-7), Doni Ingram, Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and Phillip Wiedmeyer, Chairman and President of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition.

### **Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition Background**

The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition was created in 2002 as a regional effort to research and implement “best practices” to reduce oil dependence, improve air quality, and increase local economic development. Efforts to establish the Coalition were initiated by the Environmental Committee of the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, now known as the Birmingham Business Alliance, and were originally intended to focus on a ten county region of Central Alabama.

The Coalition quickly expanded their reach beyond the ten county span and formally changed their name to the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition in 2006 upon the recommendation of Executive Director Mark Bentley. The organization now serves a population of 4.5 million within all 67 counties of Alabama.

Coalition funding is generated from private and public sources including member dues and grants. Through tireless and creative efforts, ACFC has leveraged grant monies at a near 3:1 level for maximum alternative fuel infrastructure benefits.

Currently, ACFC consists of 27 members bolstered by the participation of 74 stakeholders representing the full market spectrum. Members and stakeholders include local and state government entities, public and private fleets, mass transit organizations, utilities, trade associations, as well as alternative fuel producers, distributors, vehicle manufacturers, equipment suppliers, and engine converters, along with colleges, universities, individuals, and many, many more. Furthermore, Coalition members include representatives from each major alternative fuel including electricity, biodiesel, ethanol, electricity, natural gas and propane. Complete information about the coalition can be found at [www.AlabamaCleanFuels.org](http://www.AlabamaCleanFuels.org).

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*The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition, a non-profit membership based organization, is the state's principal coordinating point for alternative fuels. The promotion of clean, renewable, domestic energy sources helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil, improves local air quality, and increases economic development opportunities in our local communities. For more information, please visit our website at [www.alabamacleanfuels.org](http://www.alabamacleanfuels.org) or call us directly at 205-402-2755.*