

Alternative Fuels Policies: Outlook for 2019

What Clean Cities Coalitions Can Do to Ensure
a Clean Transportation Future



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Cummins Westport, Workhorse Group, United Soybean Board, National Biodiesel Board, Volkswagen Group of America, NGV America, Roush CleanTech, Lightning Systems, Ozinga

REG, Altec, National Propane Gas Association, Zero RPM, BYD, National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium, Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas

East Bay Clean Cities, Greater New Haven Clean Cities, Virginia Clean Cities, South Shore Clean Cities, Navigant

Transportation Energy Partners

- **Provides policy support** to the nation's Clean Cities Coalitions & our 15,000 stakeholders
- **Keeps coalitions & stakeholders informed** of key policies, programs, & funding opportunities
- **Educates decision makers** about the importance of advancing markets for clean vehicles and fuels
- **Need coalition involvement and support** to be effective.



How Coalitions Can Participate

- Build relationships with your elected officials.
- Educate them about the importance of cleaner fuels and vehicles.
- Rally your stakeholders and make your voices heard.
- Attend the Energy Independence Summit and bring stakeholders.
- Become a TEP member.



Energy Independence Summit

February 11-13 in Washington DC

Featuring:

- **Administration and Congressional Leaders**
- **Industry Leaders** – Cummins Westport, Nissan, UPS, National Propane Gas Association, Altec, National Biodiesel Board, NGV America, Lightning Hybrids, Roush CleanTech and More
- **Roundtables with DOE, EPA, DOT, USDA**
- **25th Anniversary Salute to Clean Cities Reception** – Monday February 11
- **Capitol Hill Day Meetings with Congress** – Tuesday February 12
- **UPS Capitol Hill Town House Reception** – Tuesday February 12

Go to: www.transportationenergypartners.org

Recent TEP Accomplishments

- Worked with Congress to prevent proposed elimination of Clean Cities Program.
- Worked with Congress to increase funding for Clean Cities Program – up to \$37.8 M.
- Worked with Congress to increase funding for EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Grants – up to \$75 million.
- Worked with industry to extend alternative fuel tax incentives through 2017.
- Worked with industry to preserve the Renewable Fuel Standard.
- Working with DOT to break logjam on approval of CMAQ clean vehicle projects.



TEP Working with DOE to Improve Clean Cities Program

- TEP concerned that coalitions not benefitting sufficiently from program funding increases.
- Initiated a series of meetings with DOE.
- Developed proposal for FY 2019 Clean Cities Program strategy.
- October 5 strategy meeting with DOE, TEP Board members, other coalition leaders.



TEP Proposal to DOE

Principles & Priorities for Clean Cities Funding

- Focus on furthering deployment of cleaner fuels, vehicles and infrastructure as directed by Congress.
- Utilize and support coalitions as key mechanism for achieving program objective.
- Invest in enhancing effectiveness of coalitions in meeting the program objectives.
- Support deployment of full, diverse range of alternative fuels.



TEP Proposal to DOE

Direct Support for Clean Cities Coalitions

- Increase direct coalition support funding.
- Deliverables should be more flexible to meet local alternative fuel priorities and strategies.



TEP Proposal to DOE

Competitive Deployment Grants

- Focus on ***deployment*** of cleaner vehicles, fuels and infrastructure as directed by Congress.
- Include Clean Cities coalitions as prime grantees or prominent partners with clear roles and commensurate funding.
- Support a broad range of fuels and technologies.
- Awards should be geographically diverse and meet local market needs and opportunities.
- Should be in \$500,000-\$1 million range to impact more communities; promote diverse fuels, technologies, and approaches; and support more Clean Cities coalitions.



TEP Proposal to DOE

Technical & Capacity Building Support

- Invest in capacity building training and technical assistance for coalitions.
- Strengthen mentoring program.
- Continue internship program.
- Finalize 2016 and 2017 Clean Cities program metrics reports ASAP.
- Update publications that are most valuable to coalitions in their work with fleets.
- Continue Technical Response Service and TIGER teams.



TEP Proposal to DOE

Process for Ongoing Communication

- Should be quarterly meetings/conference calls with DOE, TEP leadership and Coordinator Council representatives to track progress of FY 2019 Clean Cities plan.
- Should be discussion of Clean Cities Program strategy and priorities at annual peer exchange meeting.
- DOE participate in TEP's annual Energy Independence Summit.



TEP Proposal to DOE Already Seeing Results

- DOE has indicated they will increase coalition support funding.
- DOE has indicated that competitive grants will be better matched with Coalition strengths and abilities.
- DOE has committed to communicate regularly with TEP and other coalition leaders on these matters.



Federal Clean Transportation Policy

Future Remains Uncertain

- Administration likely to continue to propose cuts to Clean Energy Programs.
- Democrats will lead House.
- Bipartisan support in Congress remains strong.
- Budget negotiations will be tricky next year.
- Infrastructure legislation could move.

TEP Clean Transportation 2019 Federal Priorities

- Extend Tax Incentives for Alternative Fuels, Vehicles and Infrastructure.
- Increase Federal Funding for Key Alternative Fuels Programs.
- Preserve the Renewable Fuels Standard.
- Encourage FHWA to approve Buy America waivers for alternative fuel vehicle projects.
- Include Alternative Fuels in Any New Infrastructure Initiatives.



Federal Tax Incentives Expired at End of 2017

- Excise Credit for LNG, CNG, Propane
- Biodiesel Credit
- 2nd Generation Biofuel Credit
- Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Credit
- Hydrogen / Fuel Cell Credits

Tax Reform Legislation

- Final bill maintained EV credit.
- Did not include expired alternative fuel incentives.

Outlook for Tax Extenders

- Bipartisan support in House and Senate to extend expired incentives – bill introduced in House.
- Looking to attach extenders to FY 2019 omnibus appropriations bill.
- Should focus on House and Senate leadership and Tax Committee Members.
- Some looking to repeal EV tax credit.
- New House leadership should help with extenders if they don't get done in December.



Outlook for Tax Incentives

- Leadership of tax committees:
 - Charles Grassley (R-IA), Chair, Senate Finance (likely)
 - Ron Wyden (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Finance
 - Richard Neal (D-MA), Chair, House Ways and Means
 - Kevin Brady (R-TX), Ranking Member, House Ways and Means



Renewable Fuel Standard

- EPA finalized RFS for 2019 for cellulosic biofuel, biomass-based diesel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel.
- EPA also finalized the RFS for biomass-based diesel through 2020.
- Oil industry still seeking to undermine the program.



Renewable Fuel Standard

- RFS is Working – Three E's:
 - Energy Security: Reducing oil dependence by meeting more than 10% of U.S. on-road transportation needs.
 - Economy: RFS supports >400,000 jobs nationwide.
 - Environment: Reducing carbon emissions and other pollution.
- Need to encourage lawmakers and Administration to continue to support a strong RFS.



TEP Funding Priorities

- Maintain increased funding for Clean Cities program, including more funding for competitive grants.
- Maintain increased funding for the EPA Clean Diesel grants.



FY 2019 Appropriations

- DOE spending bill signed into law – includes \$37.8 million for Clean Cities.
- EPA spending included in bill that funds government through 12/21/18
- House version includes \$100 M and Senate includes \$50M.

FY 2020 Appropriations

- President to propose budget in February.
- Appropriations subcommittees will consider legislation in April and May.
- House and Senate floor action in summer.
- Final legislation in fall.



Key Appropriations Leaders

- Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chair
 - Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Ranking Member
- House Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Chair
 - Mike Simpson (R-ID), Ranking Member
- Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chair
 - Tom Udall (D-NM), Ranking Member
- House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Betty McCollum (D-MN), Chair
 - Ken Calvert (R-CA), Ranking Member

TEP FY 2020 Appropriations Strategy

- Find out your Members' appropriations request process and deadline (usually late February/early March).
- Follow up with member request form or letter.
- Show coalition stakeholder support.
- Follow up with Congressional offices after you submit request.

Other Issues

- FHWA Buy America obstacles
- Infrastructure legislation
- Energy legislation

Strategies for Continuing Progress

We Need your Participation

- Educate new Administration.
- Work with your Members of Congress.
- Rally your stakeholders and make your voices heard.
- Attend the Energy Independence Summit and bring stakeholders.



Preparing for Capitol Hill Day



Why Is Education of Policy Makers Important?

- **Builds Your Organization:** Increased visibility, more members, more funding.
- **Advances your Policies:** helps you educate policymakers and influence the debate.
- **Builds Long-term Relationships:** Advocacy promotes your organization with key policymakers.



Relationships, Relationships, Relationships

- Relationships are the currency of policymaking in Washington D.C. and across the country.
- Identify ways you can help elected officials.
 - Be a good source of ideas & information.
 - Provide opportunities for visibility & media coverage.
 - Introduce them to key constituencies and community leaders.
- Build relationships with local, state, & national offices.



All Politics is Local

- Educate officials about the value & benefits of clean transportation policies for your area.
 - Provide facts & figures on how clean vehicles & fuels are creating jobs and benefitting the local area.
 - Provide examples of local projects and programs in action.
- Demonstrate broad-based and bi-partisan support for your issue.



Follow Up and Follow Through

- If you don't know, find the answer and get back to them.
- Send thank you notes.
- Stay in Touch: send reports, newsletters, and regular updates to staff.
- Invite elected officials to local events.
- Identify opportunities for media coverage.

Meeting Preparation

- Prepare a “1-Pager” with background on your organization and examples of local projects.
- Use examples of local projects in action.
- Visual displays are extremely helpful.
- Business Cards, Pen, Paper.
- Phones on vibrate or silent.
- Wear comfortable shoes.



Meeting Tips

- **Be Brief and to the Point:** Expect meeting to last 15-30 minutes. Keep presentation short & leave time for questions.
- **Focus Specific Requests for Action:** Elected officials want to know how they can help.
- **Consider the office:** Know the elected official's committees and background and tailor your pitch.
- **Be Factual:** Know the most up-to-date facts about your organization and pertinent issues. Bring a cheat sheet if you need to be precise.
- **Know the Opposition:** There are Pros & Cons to every debate.
- **Be Respectful:** Even if they disagree, you should respect their views. There will be future opportunities to work together.

TEP Assistance for Capitol Hill Day

- Building teams with stakeholders
- Scheduling meetings
- Sample appropriations request letter
- Talking points and hand-outs on federal policies
- Sample local press release



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For More Information

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