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## **CITY RECEIVES ALMOST \$15 MILLION IN FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDING TO EXPAND USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS, VEHICLES**

Mayor Richard M. Daley today announced the City of Chicago, a nationally recognized leader in municipal air quality innovation and environmental stewardship, is being awarded almost \$15 million for the "Chicago Area Alternative Fuels Deployment Project", which will result in the deployment of 554 alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles in public and private fleets and the installation of 153 alternative fuel fueling and electric vehicle charging stations throughout the Chicago region.

The grant is awarded from the United States Department of Energy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"For many years I have worked to improve Chicago's air quality. Most of the air pollution in Chicago comes from cars, trucks, and buses," Daley said in a news conference held at Aqua Tower, 225 N. Columbus Dr., where the developers have already installed electric car charging stations here to make it easier for people to drive electric cars.

"By improving air quality and reducing how much fuel we use, we also improve the health of our residents and save money on fuel costs. With these funds we'll work with a broad range of public and private partners to expand the kind of infrastructure that will support growth in the use of alternative fuels," he said.

Additional goals of the project to be funded are to generate local jobs through the installation of alternative fueling infrastructure, increase the number of alternatively fueled vehicles in the Chicago region and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The project will result in expanded availability of alternative fuels through the installation of:

- 153 Alternative Fuel Fueling and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations;
  - 8 public access Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations;
  - 9 shared-access CNG & E-85 (ethanol) sites; and
  - 136 public access and fleet dedicated charging stations.

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Many of these stations will be available for public use.

Chicago area partners were chosen to participate in the City's application based primarily on readiness to implement and environmental and economic impact.

Participating fleets include local taxi companies, utilities, municipalities, refuse haulers and car sharing. These fleets will benefit by the grant providing funding to reduce the incremental cost for these cleaner vehicles. The grant will deploy:

- 554 Alternative Fuel and Hybrid Vehicles;
  - 250 Gasoline Hybrids –Taxi fleet retiring Crown Victorias;
  - 232 CNG Vehicles;
  - 68 Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Conversions;
  - 2 Hybrid-Electric Diesel Trucks, and 2 Electric ATVs.

The combined benefits of these projects will reduce harmful vehicle emissions by 448 metric tons per year, reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent emissions by over 7,600 metric tons per year, displace 3.08 million gasoline gallon equivalents of petroleum per year, and result in 77 created and/or retained jobs.

The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions benefits of this project are equivalent to taking 1390 cars off the road per year.

The entities that will share in the City's total grant of \$14,999,658 are:

- The City's Department of Fleet management will purchase 55 compressed-natural-gas (CNG) vehicles and fund 6 E-85 fuel infrastructure stations and one 1 CNG station at existing City of Chicago conventional fuel sites.
- Chicago Carriage, one of Chicago's larger taxicab companies, which will replace 250 of their Crown Victoria vehicles with Ford Escape hybrids.
- ComEd, which proposes to expand the use of hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles in its fleet.
- Doreen's Pizza, Calumet City, will install its own CNG station onsite and make the fuel available to neighboring businesses and the general public.
- DuPage County Division of transportation will procure and convert 15 new vehicles to CNG operation and install and operate a shared-access CNG station on county property.
- DuPage County Forest Preserve, which will install a CNG fueling station.

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- Exel-Diageo: 4 CNG trucks will be used in Exel's support of Diageo's logistical operations in Plainfield, Illinois as they make daily deliveries to the Bensenville, Illinois area.
- Food Liner, Inc of Franklin Park, a hauler of bulk food grade products to the major bakeries, pop and beer manufactures in the Chicago region, will purchase four Class 8 trucks with CNG engine for use in daily delivery service.
- Groot Industries will replace 20 of its 225 heavy duty waste removal trucks with new compressed natural gas trucks.
- Gas Technology Institute, Des Plaines, will make CNG available to two of the potential sub-awardees (Excel Fleet and Food Liner, Inc) as the primary source of fueling the combined eight (8) heavy-duty dedicated CNG trucks included in the application
- I-GO Cars, Chicago, will convert 29 of its Priuses to Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles and install 62 charging stations.
- Peoples Gas will open a public-access CNG station and expand its own use of CNG at the site with the addition of 12 dedicated CNG Ford vans.
- TAS/Clean Energy will use the funds to offset the incremental costs of 100 CNG taxicabs and the capital costs of designing, permitting, constructing and commissioning 2 new natural gas fueling stations.
- Village of Downers Grove will upgrade the current CNG station.
- Waste Management will install a slow-fill CNG station for its new refuse haulers and installing a public-access, fast-fill CNG station for other local fleets and individual vehicle owners.
- ZipCar will convert 25 Priuses in its fleet to Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles and install 25 charging stations throughout the Chicago region.

Through the Clean Cities grant, \$300 million was made available nationally by USDOE to fund alternative fuel vehicle acquisitions and/or conversions as well as alternative fueling infrastructure.

Applicants were limited to state, local governments or metropolitan transportation authorities and were required to work with their local Clean Cities Coalition on applications. The City of Chicago partnered with the Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition and the Gas Technology Institute, a not for profit research facility in DesPlaines, to develop the application.

“The support we are receiving from the federal government is a critical addition to the many steps we're taking here to help stimulate our economy and get through the worst recession in modern times,” Daley said.

“I am confident that when all is said and done, Chicago will work its way through these bad times and come out stronger as a result,” he said.

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