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GM provides Clean Cities with 2nd Chevy Avalanche to promote ethanol use

McCain touts need to look at fuel alternatives at national Clean Cities Conference in Phoenix

Clean Cities, a program of Pima Association of Governments, has a new Chevy Avalanche to educate the region about the benefits of ethanol, or E85, as an alternative fuel.

Colleen Crowninshield, Clean Cities manager, said this is the second year in a row that General Motors has provided Clean Cities with a Chevy Avalanche, which has a flex-fuel engine as part of the Governor's Ethanol Coalition promotion of E85.

The 2007 Chevy Avalanche was presented during the 2006 National Clean Cities Conference in Phoenix, which was held May 7 to 10, and hosted more than 1,000 attendees.

"Attendees came to learn about alternatives to petroleum, what alternatives are available, how to educate others on new technologies and what vehicles are available from original equipment manufacturers, such as GM," Crowninshield said.

Speaking during the conference's opening session, Sen. John McCain addressed the need to reduce the United State's dependence on foreign oil.

"My friends, I believe that our nation stands at a crossroads in its history," he said. "For decades we have been living lives of abundance, with little regard for our natural

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resources or global health. But we are now facing hard choices in our energy policy. Future generations—my children and grandchildren, along with yours—will have to live with the decisions we make today. And so it is time for us to make some tough-and hopefully-smart choices regarding our energy use and production before it is too late.”

He said that the answer to high gas prices cannot be to produce more oil. “The supply is simply not there to do that,” he said.

Crowninshield said there are options to paying \$3 for a gallon of gasoline. In addition to ethanol, other alternatives include biodiesel and compressed natural gas. More information about clean fuels is available at www.pagnet.org.

McCain said that while it is difficult to pay today’s gasoline prices, he sees the issue as an opportunity to develop new technologies, more jobs, a better environment and energy diversification.

“I invite you to seize this opportunity and to exhibit the courage and determination that will be required to take on this challenge and move our country toward the creation of stable, affordable and cleaner sources of energy for our economy and for our future.” McCain said.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. PAG’s staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.pagnet.org for more information.