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Clean Cities program helps Tucson region displace 4.2 million gallons of petroleum

The high price of gas at the pump didn't faze some of the forward-thinking fleets and individuals in the Tucson region last year. Coalition members of Pima Association of Governments' Clean Cities program reported displacing 4.2 million gallons of petroleum with alternative fuels, such as biodiesel, ethanol, compressed natural gas, hybrid electric vehicles, propane and idle reduction technologies in 2006. This represents a 40 percent increase from 2005 when 3 million gallons were displaced.

"The growing use of alternative fuels decreases our nation's dependency on foreign oil," said Colleen Crowninshield, PAG's Clean Cities manager. "The local number is moving in the right direction, and it shows Tucson's commitment to a better quality of life for generations to come."

The Coalition, which consists of 64 public and private entities, such as the City of Tucson, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson Electric Power, Raytheon Missile Systems, Southwest Gas, Schwan's Foods, and many school districts, who are both using alternative fuels and participating in a statewide school bus idle reduction program, and several other companies have made commitments to using alternative fuels.

In a statement released this week by the National Renewable Energy Lab "data review is ongoing and data is still coming in, preliminary estimates have the total displacement in the area of 300 million GGEs (gasoline gallon equivalent), exceeding the 2006 national program goal of 292 million GGEs. "It is important to educate our community as to our contributions to this national effort," Crowninshield said. "We are proud to see our number of alternative fuels and idle reduction programs both growing and making a difference nationwide."

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.