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For immediate release
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PAG’s Clean Cities Program helps Tucson region displace more than 11 million gallons of petroleum
Each year, as more alternative-fueled cars come online and people become more aware of access to alternative fuels, the volume of petroleum use in the United States tends to decline.

In Pima County, members of the Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition reported 11 million gallons of petroleum displaced with alternative fuels in 2009.

“Once again, this is a great effort on the part of our coalition members,” said Colleen Crowninshield, Manager of Pima Association of Governments’ Clean Cities program. “Although the displacement number in 2009 is similar to our 2008 number, we believe it is due to most fleets and individuals choosing to drive less given the economic climate.”

The bottom line, she said, is that when people use alternative fuels, they are helping to decrease the nation’s dependence on foreign oil. In turn, this helps keep our air cleaner and strengthens our energy security.

The Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition has 79 public and private members, including the City of Tucson, Pima County, the University of Arizona, Tucson Electric Power Co., Reay’s Ranch Investors, Pinal Energy LLC, Southwest Gas Corp., Coulomb Technologies and many school districts.

“Our school districts are not only using alternative fuels and participating in one of the only statewide school bus idle reduction programs, but they also

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are taking time to teach children about alternative fuels,” Crowninshield said. “This helps reduce petroleum use and helps improve the air quality for our children who ride school buses.”

The Tucson Clean Cities program currently is supporting the planning and installation of electric-vehicle charging units to support the launch of Nissan’s all-electric LEAF in December 2010 in the Tucson market.

Tucson is one of five U.S. markets Nissan selected for the initial launch of the LEAF. Pima Association of Governments signed a memorandum of understanding with Nissan North America and Scottsdale-based Etec/ECOtality to support development of the electric-vehicle infrastructure. The local, state and national infrastructure is supported by a $99 million U.S. Department of Energy stimulus grant, awarded to Etec last August.

“Our past year was one of many successes for the Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition including the use of biodiesel for the transport of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington, D.C., and the opening of the first electric-vehicle charging stations, which was personally funded by one of our Coalition members,” Crowninshield 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. Please visit www.PAGnet.org for more information.*

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