For immediate release
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PAG’s Clean Cities program celebrates 15th anniversary

Pima Association of Governments’ Clean Cities program celebrated 15 years of displacing petroleum at an anniversary event during its Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition meeting today.

The celebration coincides with the U.S. Department of Energy’s 20-year celebration of the federal program, which has led to the displacement of more than 5 billion gallons of petroleum in the United States during that time.

Pima Association of Governments recognized original coalition members who signed on to the designation in 1998. Original members included: Southwest Gas, Tucson Unified School District, Bookmans, Pima Community College, the City of Tucson, the City of South Tucson, Pima County, Town of Oro Valley and Town of Sahuarita.

“All joined together with PAG to help reduce America’s dependence on petroleum and ensure our energy security by deploying alternative-fueled vehicles and infrastructure to support those vehicles,” said Tucson Clean Cities Manager Colleen Crowninshield. “In 1998, we had fewer than 10 members and no public fueling infrastructure. Fifteen short years later, we have displaced more than 50 million gallons of petroleum with E85 and

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have more than 100 public fueling and electric vehicle charging stations."

The coalition has nearly 100 members, a reflection of the Tucson region’s support of alternatives to petroleum and advances in the industry.

“Thanks to the initial members of Tucson Clean Cities and, in particular, the two individuals who helped start this program, Rita Hildebrand and Pedro Najera,” Crowninshield said. “Without their efforts, Tucson Clean Cities would have never made it off the ground.”

Guest speakers during the celebration included: Dennis Smith, Director of Clean Cities, U.S. Department of Energy; Wendy Erica Werden, U.S. Congressman Ron Barber’s Office; James MacAdam, Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild’s office; Kevin Adger, Reporter, Tucson News Now, and Cherie Campbell, PAG’s Interim Executive Director.

A few of program highlights over the years include:

- Working with the NFL Environment team to be the first Coalition to “green” the Super Bowl
- First Coalition to bring the Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington, D.C., on biofuels
- 2005 Coalition Coordinator of the Year
- 2010 South Central Region Nomination for Coordinator of the Year
- 2011 Inductee to the U.S. Dept of Energy’s Coordinator Hall of Fame
- 2012 U.S DOE Award for Greatest Petroleum Displaced using E85

About PAG/Clean Cities

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. For more information, visit www.pagnet.org

Clean Cities is a voluntary program of the U.S. Department of Energy to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel, accelerate the use of alternative fuel vehicles and build a local refueling infrastructure for these vehicles.