

APD ALERT

Alternative Fuels



Purpose

This Alert clarifies the requirements to increase the use of alternative fuels and reduce petroleum consumption and when to acquire alternative fueled vehicles (AFVs). It also updates the Web sites used to locate available alternative fuels.

Policy

Federal fleets are mandated to reduce petroleum consumption and increase the use of alternative fuels. The specific actions are:

1. 2 percent annual decrease in petroleum consumption
2. 10 percent annual increase in use of alternative fuels
3. Use of alternative fuels in flex fueled vehicles unless waived
4. 75 percent of light duty vehicles acquired in metropolitan statistical areas are AFVs (target acquisitions where alternative fuel is available)

The first two actions are self explanatory. To clarify the waiver requirement, agencies submit an annual report to the Department of Energy (DOE) that lists the garaged location of each AFV. When alternative fuel is not reasonably available (within a 5 mile or 15 minute drive or cost more per gallon than petroleum), DOE will grant a waiver no longer requiring the agency to refuel the **specific** vehicle with alternative fuel 100 percent of the time. However, agencies must continue to use alternative fuel when and where it is available. Due to cold weather conditions, offices may not be able to use E85 fuel when temperatures are below freezing. When this is the case, document the decision to refrain from using this fuel due to performance concerns. When determining the garaged location, Headquarters lists the address of the accountable property officer.

When acquiring AFVs, agencies should acquire an AFV when alternative fuel is available in the surrounding area and when an AVF is available in the type needed for the mission. Acquiring an AFV when there are no opportunities to use alternative fuels does not help to increase alternative fuel use or decrease petroleum consumption.

Use the following Web sites to locate alternative fuel in your surrounding area or when traveling between work sites. Ensure that you provide this information to your vehicle operators.

1. <http://afdc.energy.gov/afdc/locator/stations/state> (**Department of Energy – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**). This link provides a location of alternative fuel stations based on the fuel type, city, state, and zip code. It also maps a route of alternative fuel stations between a “start” and “end” point.
2. <http://e85refueling.com> (**Growth Energy**). This link provides a list of E85 fueling sites by zip code, city, and state, and includes fuel prices.

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