



NEWS RELEASE

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Beyond a Billion: Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Coalition to Celebrate Local Contribution to Nationwide Petroleum Savings

YPSILANTI, MI – The Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Coalition will join 88 Clean Cities coalitions across the country on Friday, Oct. 14th, to celebrate displacing more than a billion gallons of oil with alternative fuels produced here in the US. Locally, the Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Coalition is partnering with Meijer to host a “Beyond a Billion Celebration” at Meijer’s 3995 Carpenter Road fueling location at 11:30 am on October 14th. In the Ann Arbor area, Meijer’s 3995 Carpenter Road and 3145 Ann Arbor-Saline Road locations both sell B20 biodiesel and compressed natural gas (CNG). Biodiesel is an alternative fuel made from vegetable oil, which can be used in any diesel engine without modification. B20 is a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% regular diesel. CNG is a clean burning fuel that is primarily domestic in origin. The event will showcase biodiesel and CNG vehicles. Local fleets operating on these fuels include: the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County Government, Ann Arbor Public Schools, the University of Michigan, Wacker Oil, and DTE Energy among others.

Clean Cities, a program of the U.S. Department of Energy brings together vehicle manufacturers, fleet owners, fuel providers, and others with the goal of decreasing our reliance on imported oil. The focus is on the use of alternative fuels and improved fuel efficiency. Alternative fuels include biodiesel, ethanol, natural gas, electric, and various fuel blends. Efficiency improvements include hybrid electric vehicles, heavy-truck idle reduction, and general fuel economy improvements.

Through these efforts, the national Clean Cities initiative has reached the milestone of displacing 1 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel, which is enough to fuel 2 million cars for a year. “By passing the billion gallon milestone,” Clean Cities Program Developer, Sean Reed, stated, “Clean Cities coalitions have shown they are making a difference on a local and national level. While our thirst for oil puts our economic and energy security at risk, Clean Cities coalitions across the country are demonstrating options that work. In the past year, Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities stakeholders alone, operating over 900 alternate fuel vehicles, have displaced over a million gallons of petroleum. Meijer has provided a significant boost to our efforts by making biodiesel available to the public this year”.

This is significant because the U.S. now imports approximately two-thirds of the petroleum it uses. At \$68 per barrel, we are now spending approximately \$300 billion

per year for imported petroleum; about \$200 billion of this is for the transportation sector alone. That is, we are spending more than \$3.5 billion each week to fuel the economies of other countries when we could be fueling ours by investing in domestic fuels like ethanol or biodiesel. By using less oil, the Clean Cities coalitions have improved the nation's energy, economic, and environmental security.

For more information on the Beyond a Billion event and the Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Coalition, contact Program Developer, Sean Reed at 734.994.4780/sreed2@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us, or visit www.aacleancities.org.

About the Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Coalition

The Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Coalition (AACC) is a public/private partnership formed to initiate the infrastructure and increase demand for alternative fuels and vehicles within Washtenaw County, Michigan, with the goals of improving air quality, reducing dependence on foreign oil, and empowering the businesses and residents of the community to move towards creating a more sustainable community.

Founded in 1999, the Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Coalition is one of 88 Clean Cities Coalitions that can be found across the country. AACC provides a forum for members to promote alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure; share information; leverage their resources; develop joint projects; and collaborate on public policy issues in our community.

Stakeholders of the Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Coalition include: the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County Government, the University of Michigan, Wacker Oil, Ecology Center, U.S. Department of Energy, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth – Energy Office, Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, DTE Energy, Ann Arbor Public Schools, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – Air Quality Division, and Sellers Truck Center.

About Meijer

Meijer is a family owned and operated grocery and general merchandise supercenter retailer operating 165 stores throughout Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. Additional information about Meijer can be found on the Internet at Meijer.com.

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