PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Kansas City Regional Clean Cities Coalition and its 18 subrecipients are installing and upgrading more than 35 alternative fueling stations, many of which are open to the public, and deploying more than 375 alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles, replacing gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles. The fuels and technologies being deployed include compressed natural gas, B20 biodiesel, E85 ethanol, propane autogas, hybrid and all-electric.

In addition to implementing and using alternative fuel sources, the project has involved coordinating alternative fuel trainings through the Kansas City Regional Clean Cities Coalition. This collaborative educational effort taught managers, business leaders and the general public about alternative fuel safety, availability, points of origin and air quality benefits.

PROJECT GOALS:
- Significantly reduce petroleum consumption
- Improve air quality
- Demonstrate successful fleet operations while implementing diverse alternative vehicle fuels
- Train technicians and first responders on proper use of alternative fuels
- Execute a public outreach campaign
- Install alternative fueling sites connecting cities along interstate corridors

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND LESSONS LEARNED:
The Metropolitan Energy Center used the Kansas City Regional Clean Cities Coalition’s multi-pronged approach to alternative fuel use, which will enable the region to transition to secure transportation energy sources. Using these alternative energy sources has led to economic development in the form of new companies to provide the products and services necessary for fleet deployment and public use.

This project has provided financial and environmental benefits to the region through 19 local initiatives. Two initiatives were with the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools and Lee’s Summit R-7 School District. The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools replaced 47 diesel buses with compressed natural gas buses and 4 diesel buses with hybrid-electric buses. Lee’s Summit R-7 School District replaced 4 diesel delivery trucks with all-electric trucks. The school districts’ fleets now provide cleaner air and increased community pride. The decrease in fuel cost has also benefited the school districts.

FUNDING SOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS:
Funding for the Midwest Region Alternative Fuels Project was provided through the U.S. Department of Energy, via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Each subrecipient also contributed to their own projects. Total investment thus far is approximately $35 million, of which $21 million has been provided by the subrecipients.

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