

State Petroleum Displacement Plan Yields Cost Savings & Emission Benefits

Story by: NCSC Solar Center

Raleigh, N.C. – March 16, 2011 - Thirty- eight state agencies collectively saved over 4.5 million gallons of petroleum last fiscal year. This is the equivalent of taking 4,000 cars off the road using an average of 500 gallons of fuel per vehicle per year. An annual Petroleum Displacement Plan (PDP) report, submitted by the State Energy Office of the N.C. Department of Commerce to the Joint Legislative Commission on Government Operations, documented the reduction in FY 09-10. A FY 04-05 special budget provision requires a 20 percent reduction in petroleum use by the state fleet by 2011. The FY 09-10 report represents the fifth year of tracking conducted by the N.C. Solar Center at N.C. State University.



The report accounts for over 27,600 vehicles operated by state agencies. Petroleum reductions were achieved through the use of cleaner burning renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel and advanced technology such as neighborhood electric vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles. Conservation (reduced mileage) and efficiency through driver behavior and vehicle practices also contributed significantly. Highlights of the FY 09-10 report include:

- Over two million gallons in savings, an 8 percent displacement, through conservation (reduced mileage) and efficiency measures, such as driver training, reduced idling, observing speed limits, properly maintained tire pressures, and the use of more efficient vehicles or more efficient use of existing vehicles. The savings to the state represents over \$4.5 million using an average state fuel price of \$2.09 per gallon.
- Most of the fuel used by the state fleet is now a biofuel blend: over 3.6 times more E10 (10 percent ethanol 90 percent gasoline) was used than gasoline; five times as much B20 (20 percent biodiesel) was used as compared to conventional diesel. Over 11 million gallons of E10, a blend of 10 percent ethanol with gasoline, and 8 million gallons of B20, a blend of 20 percent biodiesel with conventional petroleum diesel, was utilized by the state fleet while over 280,000 gallons of E85 (85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline) was used in state fleet E85 capable flex fuel vehicles.

Benefits of the PDP requirement include reduced transportation related emissions and savings to the state from reduced fuel usage. Another benefit is supporting economic development through domestic alternative fuel production. North Carolina is home to one ethanol plant and several biodiesel production facilities whereas all of the petroleum used in the state is imported, over six billion gallons of gasoline annually according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency. To learn more about the Petroleum Displacement Plan requirements and download the FY 09-10 report visit: http://www.ncsc.ncsu.edu/cleantransportation/docs/CFAT/FY2009-10_PDP-10-26-10.pdf