

State Fleet Management continues to receive many questions about its efforts to green Colorado's fleet. One of the most oft-asked questions is "What is 25-in-5?" Simply put, this is a reference to Governor Ritter's "Greening Government" initiative, which includes the goal of reducing petroleum use by 25% in five years, or by June 30, 2012. By replacing petroleum with domestically produced renewable fuels where possible, Colorado hopes to lower costs, reduce air pollution and smog, and support the state's economy.

Working closely with Motor Vehicle Advisory Committee representatives, the Governor's Biofuel Coalition, and the Governor's Energy Office, among many others, State Fleet Management has developed five main strategies to assist drivers and their departments in reducing petroleum use. These include: purchasing high-technology vehicles, reducing the number of miles driven, increasing the frequency of vehicle maintenance, using alternative fuels where possible, and looking for ways to improve driving habits.

Colorado's departments and agencies, such as the Department of Health who has the greatest number of Hybrid Electric Vehicles, are increasingly adding high-technology vehicles to their operations. With approximately 6,000 vehicles in the State Fleet Management program, currently 687 are Flex Fuel vehicles; 75 are Hybrid Electric, and over 200 are Diesel. State Fleet Management expects to add 300 Flex Fuel vehicles and 200 Hybrid Electric vehicles to the program in FY 2009, and is proposing to increase those numbers by at least 5% each year.

These high-technology vehicles not only offer better mileage and reduced emissions, but also an opportunity to use alternative fuels. Flex Fuel vehicles are so-called because they are flexible and can operate using either E-85 or gas. E-85 is made of 85% Ethanol (currently a corn by-product) and 15% petroleum, versus unleaded gas, which is typically 90% to 100% petroleum. Diesel vehicles can use "Biodiesel" fuel, commonly called B20, which is a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum. Alternative fuels are attractive because they contain less petroleum and are considered "clean burning."

For drivers looking for ways to help cut petroleum use, State Fleet Management's website lists a number of resources. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Follow the preventative maintenance (PM) schedule. Not only will this help you improve your gas mileage and avoid deterioration that will lead to higher tailpipe emissions, but not doing so could potentially void your manufacturer's warranty.
- When using Motor Pool, request a flex fuel or hybrid vehicle.
- Use the trip optimizer tool on the State Fleet website to figure out the most cost efficient route to your meeting.
- Utilize the Wright Express fuel price-mapping tool: www.wexonline.com. Logon to using the username [Wextoolkit](#) and password [Fuelprice](#), then select fuel price mapping
- Arrange for informal carpools to meetings, or better yet take advantage of audio and videoconferencing.
- Reduce idling – turn your engine off when stops are expected to exceed 1-5 minutes.
- Lighten your load – every 250 pounds costs you one mile per gallon in fuel efficiency.
- Check your tire pressure regularly– even a slight drop from the manufacturer's recommended setting can make a big difference in the actual miles per gallon in fuel efficiency. For the best results, use the rating listed on the inside of the driver's door panel versus the number listed on the tires.

- Map out your route to utilize a fueling station that provides Flex Fuel E85 or Diesel B20. As of January 2008, Colorado has 51 E85 Ethanol and 27 biodiesel refueling sites with plans to open 20 more during 2008 that dispense E85 and / or biodiesel. To find a station near you, visit: [/afdcmap2.nrel.gov/locator/FindPane.asp](http://afdcmap2.nrel.gov/locator/FindPane.asp) or request an updated brochure from SFM.
- Call State Fleet Management at 303-866-5222 if you would like to arrange an independent assessment and report on how your agency or drivers can improve their habits or help with establishing an agreement with your local government agency to allow shared fuel resources.