

CLEAN ENERGY MINNESOTA

Driving Innovation: Clean Cars for Minnesota

Minnesota should add its voice to the pressure being put on automakers to build the next generation of cleaner, fuel-efficient cars and trucks now. Clean Cars is a win-win for Minnesotans' pocketbooks, our health, and Minnesota's great outdoors.

Why Clean Cars

In May 2008, Governor Pawlenty's Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) recommended requiring clean cars and trucks in Minnesota. Beginning in 2012, the clean cars standards will phase in a requirement that all new cars and light-duty trucks sold or registered in Minnesota be manufactured in a way that results in a 30 percent reduction in emissions, averaged across a manufacturer's fleet, by 2016. Automakers have dragged their heels for years, producing cars that guzzle gas, pollute the air we breathe and cost us more money to fill up at the pump. And Minnesotans have paid the price for it.

Minnesotans favor regulations

Bringing clean cars and trucks to Minnesota means cleaner air, fuel cost savings for consumers, cutting the global warming pollution that threatens our lakes, rivers and streams, and reducing our dependence on foreign oil. According to a recent statewide poll, 78 percent of Minnesotans support new auto manufacturing standards that would require cleaner cars and trucks in the state.

Now is time to join the movement

There are 14 states that have already adopted these more protective state-based emissions standards, representing close to 50 percent of new car sales in the United States. Minnesota would be joining a growing market that is demanding efficient vehicles and newer, cleaner technologies that cost less to drive and protect our great outdoors for future generations.



GMC's 2008 Sierra 1500 already meets the year 2016 clean cars standards when running on E85.



Consumers save

Despite a slight increase in the purchase cost of some vehicles, a clean cars standard would result in a net savings to consumers due to reduced operations costs from fuel efficiency. According to an analysis by Transportation and Land Use members of MCCAG, Minnesota can reduce global warming emissions more than 13 million metric tons by 2025, with an estimated net savings of over \$260 million.

Necessary technology already available

The vehicle technologies required to meet the clean cars standards are already in use today. Some of the options include advanced power steering, variable valve lift and timing, direct injection engine technology, aerodynamic design, and better tires. Bundling these existing technologies together provides a substantial decrease in global warming emissions and other air pollutants without the need for advanced hybridization.

A Minnesota win-win

By driving innovation and requiring clean cars and trucks in Minnesota, we can reduce the total amount of on-road fuel burned and save money at the same time. Adopting the clean cars standards is something Minnesota can do to clean up our air, put money back in our pocketbooks, enhance our national security, and protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams for our children and grandchildren.

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Contact your state legislators today and urge them to support clean cars standards for a healthier, cleaner Minnesota!