



GECAP

Georgia Environmental Compliance Assistance Program

<http://www.gecap.org>

Clean Fuel Fleets

GECAP of the Georgia Tech Research Institute is a voluntary, non-regulatory environmental compliance program funded by the Georgia Legislature through the University System of Georgia.

The Clean Fuel Fleets Program (CFFP) is a federally funded program to encourage fleet operators to use clean fueled vehicles (CFVs) in certain urban areas that have historically experienced air quality problems. CFVs are cars and trucks powered by electric powertrains or by engines that produce lower air emissions than those in the past. The CFFP targets fleet operations because such fleets operate large numbers of vehicles over many miles each year; experience frequent turnover as vehicles wear out and are replaced; and are often fueled at a central point. All of these factors suggest that encouraging fleets to convert to CFVs will produce more dramatic improvements in air quality over a shorter period than would be possible otherwise.

Administered by the state environmental agencies of Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, the CFFP requires that the operators of all commercial fleets with 10 or more vehicles within specified areas register their fleets with the state agency and submit an annual report on the composition of their fleets. In addition, the CFFP requires that fleet operators within the specified urban areas buy or lease at least a certain minimum percentage of CFVs when procuring new vehicles for their fleets. As an added incentive to purchase only CFVs, the CFFP provides for the accumulation of credits for those fleet operators who buy or lease more CFVs than are mandated by the CFFP. These credits can be bought from, sold to, or traded with other program participants.

Why is the Atlanta area included in the CFFP?

In 1990, the Clean Air Act was amended to require improvements in the air quality of certain urban areas. Due to the fact that it frequently exceeds the federal limit for ozone concentration, the 13-county Atlanta metropolitan area was designated an air quality non-attainment area. This non-attainment area is comprised of Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale counties. Ozone is a form of oxygen that occurs both naturally and as a result of chemical reac-

tions among man-made pollutants. In particular, nitrous oxides (NO_x) from motor vehicle exhaust and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from industrial processes are degraded by the ultraviolet light of the sun in a complex series of reactions to produce ozone. Although not a concern when present in very small concentrations, ozone in the higher concentrations found in urban areas is detrimental to those individuals suffering from respiratory conditions such as asthma and emphysema.

The aim of the Georgia CFFP is to reduce fleet emissions of NO_x in the metro Atlanta area, thereby reducing ozone formation and easing its impact on human health.

Who must participate in the CFFP?

All operators of fleets with 10 or more vehicles operating within the 13-county Atlanta metropolitan area must register with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). If your fleet has fewer than 10 vehicles, you must register within 90 days of acquiring the 10th vehicle. It is important to note that you must register your fleet even if it is not covered under the CFFP. The CFFP defines covered fleets as those having 10 or more vehicles that each have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of less than 26,000 lbs, that operate at least 10 percent of their annual miles within the 13-county metropolitan area, that are centrally fueled or are capable of being centrally fueled, and are not in an exempt category.

Vehicles exempt from being counted toward CFFP compliance include those:

- used primarily for pursuit by law enforcement;
- emergency vehicles legally authorized to exceed the speed limit;
- vehicles with a GVWR in excess of 26,000 lbs;
- garaged at home and not centrally fueled;
- that spend less than half of their time over the course of year inside the 13-county Atlanta metropolitan area;
- leased or rented out to the public;
- off-road vehicles not licensed for public road use; and
- primarily used by manufacturers for test purposes.

How do I meet CFFP purchase requirements?

Beginning with the 2001 model year, the Georgia CFFP requires that 70% of light-duty vehicles and 50% of heavy-duty vehicles in covered fleets be CFVs. Light-duty vehicles are those with GVWRs of 8500 lbs or less; heavy-duty vehicles are those with a GVWR in excess of 8500 lbs. Operators of covered fleets can comply with these requirements by purchasing or leasing new CFVs, converting existing vehicles, and/or by applying purchase credits that may have been accumulated or purchased.

As an added incentive, the Georgia CFFP incorporates a purchase credit program by which covered fleets generate credits for each CFV purchased or leased over and above the minimum requirements. These credits are automatically *banked* with the CFFP upon the submission of each annual report to the EPD, and can be bought from, sold to, or traded with other CFFP participants.

What are Clean Fueled Vehicles?

Clean fueled vehicles (CFVs) can be classified as belonging to one of three groups:

1. Vehicles that burn conventional gasoline or diesel fuels and are certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as low emissions vehicles (LEVs) or ultra-low emissions vehicles (ULEVs).
2. Vehicles that burn alternative fuels that inherently produce little or no emissions. These include those cars and trucks either originally equipped or subsequently modified to burn ethanol, methanol, hydrogen, biodiesel, compressed natural gas (CNG), or liquid propane gas (LPG) fuel.
3. Vehicles that are certified by the U.S. EPA as zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs). Currently, these are vehicles with electric powertrains driven by storage batteries.

It is important to note that the U.S. EPA did not begin certifying motor vehicles to LEV or lower standards until the 1998 model year. As a result, the only vehicles built before the 1998 model year that could be considered CFVs are those that burn alternative fuels.

How do I file an Annual Report?

The Georgia EPD requires that covered fleet operators submit an annual report on the makeup of their vehicle

fleet. This report is due by March 1st of the calendar year following the end of the model year. For instance, the report due by March 1, 2002, covers the period from September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2001. Once a complete vehicle inventory has been submitted to the EPD, subsequent annual reports can consist of either an updated fleet ledger or a listing of only those vehicles that entered or exited the fleet after your last submission.

In order to simplify the creation of your Annual Report, the Georgia EPD provides a spreadsheet package known as the Georgia Clean Fueled Fleet Program (CFFP) Fleet Ledger. You can download this file from the website <http://epd.georgia.gov/> by clicking on the *Technical Guidance, Air Protection Branch Technical Guidance* link and scrolling down to the *Clean Fueled Fleets* link, or by sending an email to GA_CFFP@dnr.state.ga.us to request the files. There is a guidance document included with the ledger that explains how to complete it.

Once your CFFP Fleet Ledger has been completely filled out, you can submit the report to the Georgia EPD by emailing it to GA_CFFP@dnr.state.ga.us with *Annual Report* in the subject line. You must also mail in a signed paper copy of the Annual Report cover page to the following address:

Clean Fueled Fleets Program
Environmental Protection Division /
Air Protection Branch
Suite 136
4244 International Parkway
Atlanta GA 30354

The Georgia EPD prefers that the CFFP Fleet Ledger be submitted electronically, but will accept paper reports by mail. Annual Reports that are submitted by mail should also be sent to this address.

For more information

Contact the Clean Fueled Fleets Program at the address above or by phone at 404-363-7028 or e-mail GA_CFFP@dnr.state.ga.us

- Visit the EPA's Clean Fuel Fleets website at <http://www.epa.gov/oms/stateresources/rellinks/clean-fleets.htm>
- Contact GECAP personnel at 404-407-8082 or email Paige Rohrig at paige.rohrig@gtri.gatech.edu

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