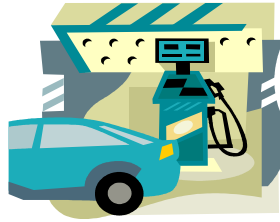


# APD ALERT

## Purchasing Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Fuels



### Purpose

USDA requires all fleet programs to acquire E85 flexible fuel vehicles whenever the option is available in the vehicle size and type needed. Previously, only offices located in or near cities listed as a Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) were required to acquire an alternative fueled vehicle (AFV). All USDA fleet programs must reduce the total consumption of petroleum products, acquire AFV's, and increase the use of alternative fuels.

### Policy

When replacing existing vehicles or requesting new vehicles, all REE offices will acquire E85 flexible fuel vehicles whenever an E85 flexible fuel option is available for the vehicle type and size needed. This policy applies to both Agency-owned vehicles and leased vehicles (GSA or commercial leases). To determine AFV availability and pricing, access GSA's on-line system, AutoChoice, at [www.gsa.gov/autochoice](http://www.gsa.gov/autochoice). Select "Alternative Fuel Vehicles" for the availability and price listing.

If there are specific vehicle options that are critical (towing capability or engine size), but are not available with the E85 flexible fuel vehicle type or size offered, the office may acquire another vehicle selection. However, the office must prepare a written justification stating the reason for the selection and obtain approval from the Area Property Management Officer (ARS offices) or the Acquisition and Property Division, Property and Support Services Branch Chief (NASS offices). All offices must submit a copy of the justification to the Property and Support Service Branch Chief via e-mail ([cheryl.brumback@ars.usda.gov](mailto:cheryl.brumback@ars.usda.gov)) or fax (202-401-6105). USDA's Departmental Fleet Manager will review all orders submitted through GSA and contact the Property and Support Services Branch to address any issues with non-compliance.

**USDA also requires vehicle operators to strive to routinely fuel vehicles with E85 fuel in areas that offer E85 fueling sites. A list of E85 fueling sites is available at <http://www.e85refueling.com>. Acquiring AFV's and using alternative fuels is very important to USDA.**

**If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Brumback on 202-720-2359.**

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