

Fuel Efficient Vehicles

Throughout history, the U.S. Postal Service has championed every new mode of transportation in its ongoing effort to provide prompt, reliable, universal mail delivery. From horse-drawn wagons and stage coaches, to trains, automobiles, planes and alternative fuel vehicles, the Postal Service has been at the cutting edge of transportation. Now, with the largest civilian fleet in the world — more than 215,000 vehicles traveling more than 1.2 billion miles a year — USPS consistently looks for ways to reduce the environmental impact of its fleet.

- The Postal Service has **more than 44,000 alternative fuel capable vehicles**. These vehicles use electricity, ethanol, compressed natural gas, liquid propane, bio-diesel and hydrogen fuel cell.
- Since FY 2005, the use of alternative fuels has **increased 133 percent**.
- The **first electric vehicle** joined the Postal Service fleet in 1899, after proving to be more efficient than a horse and buggy. Today, 30 electric vans are used to transport mail to processing facilities in New York City.
- Mail is being delivered by **three-wheel electric vehicles** in Florida, California and Arizona. The T3 has a range of 40 miles, a maximum speed of 12 mph and a load capacity of 450 pounds. Powered by two rechargeable power modules, the T3 has zero gas emissions and costs 2 cents a mile to operate.
- In December 2009, five companies were selected for a pilot program to convert USPS gasoline Long Life Vehicles (LLVs) to **Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs)**. Each company has developed its own electric-powered LLV prototype and 3 completed testing of 3 ELLV (Electric LLV) prototypes at DOE's National Idaho Lab as of June 2011.
- Tests are under way on **hybrid electric step vans** from Azure Dynamics. They may join the existing hybrid electric vehicle fleet, which includes 10 Ford Escapes, 533 Chevrolet Malibus and 370 Ford Fusions.
- The Postal Service reduces the economic risk associated with testing any new technology by using a **vehicle R&D** strategy — testing fuels and technologies in operational conditions to determine their overall viability and value to postal operations.
- Mail also is delivered the most energy efficient way possible: it's walked. This **"fleet of feet"** delivers mail door-to-door and neighbor-to-neighbor by walking nearly 9,000 mail delivery routes every day. We also have nearly 80,000 "park and loop" routes, where letter carriers deliver mail on foot after driving to neighborhoods.
- There are about 35 delivery vehicles that have been converted to run on **propane** in Key West and several hundred heavy-duty vehicles running on **biodiesel** fuel nationwide.