

Alternative Fuel Vehicles: How GSA Can Help You Go Green



What's the Alternative?

Whatever your agency's vehicle requirements, GSA is ready to provide you with full-service solutions. Through our Office of Motor Vehicle Management, we offer your agency a variety of vehicles, including Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs). Our AFVs are production-line models with all the features and amenities you would expect from diesel or gasoline-powered vehicles. AFVs have the additional benefits of reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the air and lessening our nation's dependence on petroleum.

FAQ: What You Need to Know About AFVs

Q: What are Alternative Fuel Vehicles?

A: AFVs are defined by section 301 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, as amended (42 U.S.C. 13211), and otherwise include electric fueled vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, dedicated AFVs, dual-fueled AFVs, qualified fuel cell motor vehicles, advanced lean-burn technology motor vehicles, self-propelled vehicles, such as bicycles and any other AFVs defined by statute.

Q: What are Alternative Fuels?

A: Alternative fuels are defined by section 301 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, as amended (42 U.S.C. 13211), as: methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols; mixtures containing 85 percent or more (or such other percentage, but not less than 70 percent, as determined by the secretary, by rule, to provide for requirements relating to cold start, safety, or vehicle functions) by volume of methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols with gasoline or other fuels; natural gas; liquefied petroleum gas; hydrogen; coal-derived liquid fuels; fuels (other than alcohol) derived from biological materials; electricity (including electricity from solar energy); and any other fuel the Secretary of Department of Energy determines, by rule, is substantially not petroleum and would yield substantial energy-security benefits and substantial environmental benefits.

Q: How can my agency obtain an AFV?

A: Customers interested in buying AFVs can submit orders through AutoChoice at www.autochoice.gsa.gov. If you have questions about purchasing, call (703) 605-CARS(2277).

If you are interested in leasing AFV and want more information, contact your servicing GSA Fleet office, call (703) 605-5630, or e-mail AFVteam@gsa.gov.

Q: How does GSA help?

A: GSA provides federal agencies with clean AFVs at discounted prices. GSA aims to provide our customers with the newest commercially available AFVs upon their arrival in the marketplace. As of 2011 we have purchased more than 249,000 AFVs directly from automotive manufacturers for our federal customers, more than any single organization in the United States. AFVs have comprised more than 36 percent of all vehicle purchases during the past decade.

Q: Where can I get fuel for my AFV?

A: Refueling-site information is available through the Department of Energy's Alternative Fuel Data Center Station Locator website: <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/fuels/stations.html>.



Q: Why do fleets acquire AFVs?

A: There are both legislative and regulatory mandates that require AFV acquisitions for use in federal fleets. Below are mandates and the requirements they set forth.

Energy Policy Act 1992/2005 (EPAAct)

- Acquire 75 percent of light-duty vehicles (LDVs) as alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) in metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)

Executive Order 13423

- Increase alternative fuel consumption by 10 percent annually over the previous year, a total of 159.4 percent, by 2015, from a 2005 baseline

Executive Order 13514

- Reduce petroleum consumption by 30 percent (2 percent annually) by 2020, from a 2005 baseline

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007)

- Acquire only low-GHG-emitting vehicles (with certain exceptions)

Q: What types of AFVs are currently available from GSA?

A: GSA offers a great selection of AFVs – more than 250 models operating on a variety of fueling systems – for either purchase or lease.

E85 (ethanol) capable vehicles are able to operate on a blended mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. E85 is an alternative fuel, per EPAAct. A flexible fuel vehicle (FFV) operates on any combination of E85 and gasoline.

Natural Gas is a clean-burning fossil fuel stored in a gaseous state as compressed natural gas (CNG) or in a liquid state as liquefied natural gas (LNG). Natural-gas-capable vehicles are available as either dedicated natural gas or bi-fuel natural gas and gasoline.

LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) Often referred to as propane, LPG is a clean-burning fossil fuel that produces fewer toxic and smog-forming air pollutants than gasoline.

Biodiesel is a form of diesel fuel manufactured from vegetable oils, animal fats, or recycled restaurant greases. It is safe and biodegradable, and it produces less air pollutants than petroleum-based diesel. B20 is a mixture of 20 percent biodiesel and petroleum diesel; it can be used in most diesel engines.

Electric Vehicles (EVs) operate on electricity provided by a battery storage system. An EV requires a charging station for the batteries. An electric motor is used to move the vehicle.

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) combine electricity and a gasoline-, diesel-, E85- or FFV-fueled engine. The engine is assisted by electrical power provided by a battery storage system. The engine is used to charge the batteries. Most models also use regenerative braking.

Low GHG Vehicles are considered AFVs if EPA provides a GHG score as follows:

- Passenger cars operating on gasoline, diesel or CNG: Score 7, 8, 9 or 10
- Passenger cars that operate on the alternative fuel: Score 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10
- Light-duty trucks and medium-duty passenger vehicles operating on gasoline, diesel, or CNG: 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10
- Light-duty trucks and Medium Duty Passenger Vehicles that operate on alternative fuel – 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10

For more information on EPA GHG scores, please visit www.epa.gov/greenvehicles.

Online Resources

GSA Automotive can assist you with selecting the right AFVs for your agency's fleet. For information about leasing AFVs through GSA, visit www.gsa.gov/afv.

For More Information

General information regarding GSA can be obtained by contacting the National Customer Service Center at (800) 488-3111 or NCSCcustomer.service@gsa.gov.

For AFV-leasing information, contact your servicing GSA Fleet office, call (703) 605-5630, or e-mail AFVteam@gsa.gov.



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