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Wisconsin Clean Cities members displaced 32 million gallons of petroleum in 2017

Greenhouse gas emission reductions up 28 percent from 2016 figures

MILWAUKEE — Wisconsin Clean Cities members displaced more than 32 million gallons of petroleum in 2017, the Milwaukee-based nonprofit announced Tuesday.

“We continue to be energized and inspired by our members’ commitment and dedication to embracing sustainable transportation fuels, vehicles and technologies,” Wisconsin Clean Cities Executive Director Lorrie Lisek said. “Their efforts to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, lessen dependence on imported oil, strengthen the nation’s energy security and enhance Wisconsin’s economic development are helping to drive Wisconsin forward in the right direction.”

The figures were announced Tuesday during the Wisconsin Clean Cities 4th Annual Golf Outing at Tuscumbia Country Club in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Clean Cities, a nonprofit organization serving the entire state of Wisconsin, is one of nearly 100 U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities coalitions. The coalitions partner with members in the public, private and nonprofit sectors to reduce dependence on imported oil in the transportation sector by promoting the use of alternative fuels and sustainable transportation options, thereby improving air quality and supporting local jobs and the economy.

Each year, Wisconsin Clean Cities collects data from stakeholders regarding their sustainable transportation efforts, including vehicles and fuels used (including electric vehicles), idle reduction efforts, fuel economy and vehicle miles traveled. That data is used to produce an annual coalition report for the U.S. Department of Energy’s Clean Cities program.

The survey also provides Wisconsin with opportunities for funding alternative fuel programs. Wisconsin Clean Cities’ annual stakeholder awards, presented at the annual meeting in December to members with the greatest petroleum reductions, are based on the data collected from the surveys that produce the report.

The more than 32 million gallons of gasoline displaced by Wisconsin Clean Cities members in 2017 reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 119,000 tons. Wisconsin Clean Cities members increased greenhouse gas reductions by 28 percent from 2016 to 2017, with fuel economy rising by 83 percent and idle reduction measures increasing by 20 percent.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, the fuel and emissions reductions are equal to removing approximately 61,000 passenger vehicles from Wisconsin roads for one year or removing the carbon dioxide emissions created by 43,000 homes' electrical usage for one year.

It would take 338,000 acres of forest one year to match the carbon sequestration of Wisconsin Clean Cities members in 2017. That would be like covering the Wisconsin communities of Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Appleton, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Kenosha, Racine, Wausau, Oshkosh, Waukesha, Sheboygan, Beloit and Superior with forest for one year.

"The annual report data illustrates what we have known for years," Lisek said. "Wisconsin's public, private and nonprofit fleet managers understand the multi-faceted benefits of sustainable transportation methods. Our hope is that their successes inspire others to take action as well."

For more information about how Wisconsin Clean Cities can help fleets achieve emissions reductions and financial savings, go to www.wicleancities.org.

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About Wisconsin Clean Cities

Wisconsin Clean Cities (WCC) is a nonprofit coalition focused on promoting cleaner energy for transportation in Wisconsin. WCC is one of nearly 100 coalitions across the country affiliated with the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program, which brings together stakeholders to increase the use of sustainable transportation options and improve air quality. WCC concentrates its efforts on educating businesses and municipalities throughout Wisconsin. Learn more at www.wicleancities.org.