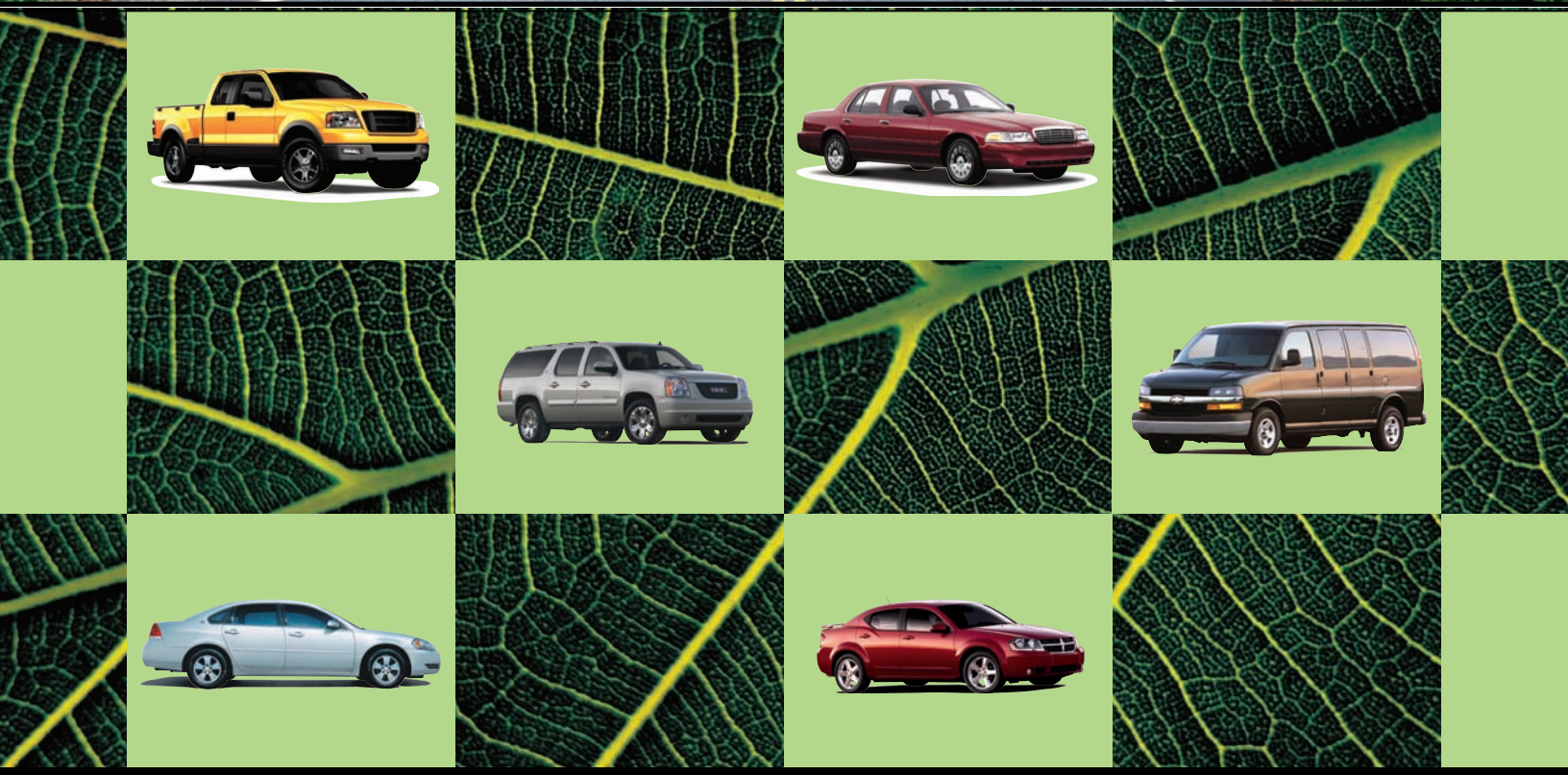
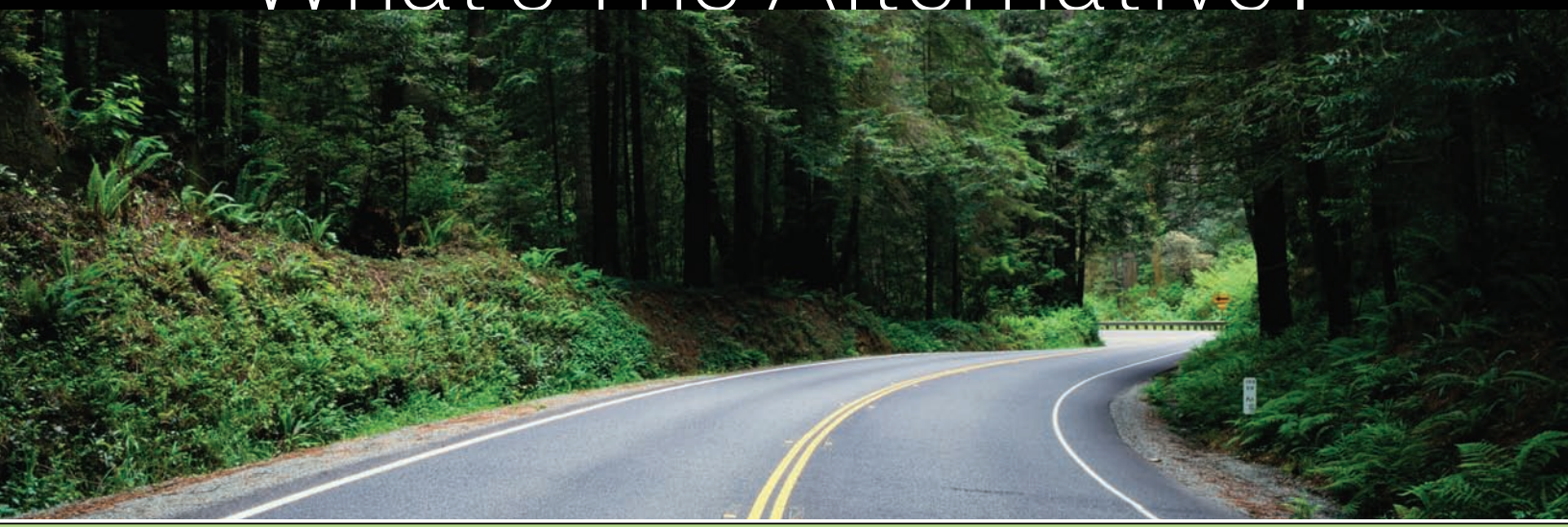
U.S. General Services Administration

Alternative Fuel Vehicles



Drive Green with GSA

What's The Alternative?



GSA's Office of Vehicle Acquisition and Leasing Services is a full service provider for Federal agencies' vehicle requirements. We offer a variety of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) to assist in meeting your acquisition and leasing needs. These vehicles are production line models with all of the features and amenities you would expect to get from diesel or gasoline powered vehicles. AFVs have the added benefit of reducing harmful emissions in the air and reducing our nation's dependence on foreign oil. We hope you will support our Planet GSA Program and "Drive Green with GSA."

Q. What are Alternative Fuels?
A. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT 2005) defines alternative fuels as: "methanol, denatured ethanol, mixtures containing up to 85% methanol or denatured ethanol, natural gas, propane (liquefied petroleum gas), biodiesel, hydrogen, and electricity."

Q. How does GSA help?
A. GSA provides Federal agencies with clean, alternative fuel vehicles. We have purchased over 60,000 AFVs directly from automotive manufacturers for our Federal customers, more than any single organization in the U.S.

Q. Where can I get fuel for my AFV?
A. While the number of alternative fueling stations in the U.S. is increasing, their total numbers are still low and finding fuel can be difficult. Refueling site information is available through the National Alternative Fuels Hotline or through its internet site, www.e85refueling.com.

Q. How do I purchase an AFV?
A. Customers interested in buying AFVs can submit orders through AutoChoice, www.autochoice.gsa.gov.

Q. How do I lease an AFV?
A. Customers interested in leasing AFVs can contact their servicing GSA Fleet office or call (703) 605-5630 for more information.

Important Information About AFVs

Q. Why do fleets acquire Alternative Fuel Vehicles?
A. There are both legislative and regulatory mandates that require AFV acquisitions for use in Federal fleets.

Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT)

- Mandates the use of light duty AFVs in "covered" Federal fleets (fleets operating in a metropolitan statistical area [MSA] with 20 or more vehicles, which are capable of being centrally fueled, barring exceptions).
- FY2000 and thereafter: 75% of all covered light duty vehicle acquisitions must be AFVs (law enforcement, emergency vehicles and vehicles located outside the 125+ MSA's covered by EPACT are exempt).
- Mandates 100% use of alternative fuel in AFVs.

Executive Order 13423 (Strengthening Federal Environment, Energy and Transportation Management), which supersedes Executive Order 13149, requires Federal agencies to exercise leadership in petroleum reduction through improvements in fleet efficiency and the use of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels.

Section 201. Reduced Petroleum Fuel Consumption
Each agency operating 20 or more motor vehicles within the United States shall reduce its entire vehicle fleet's annual petroleum consumption by at least 20% in accordance with Executive Order 13423.

Section 202. Performance Strategies
Customer agencies must reduce their fleet's petroleum consumption by using a portfolio of defined measures, which are:

1. The acquisition of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuel use
2. The acquisition of higher fuel economy vehicles
3. The substitution of cars for trucks
4. A decrease in vehicle miles traveled
5. A decrease in fleet size

Fleets must develop a strategy that includes:

1. The acquisition of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuel use
2. The acquisition of higher fuel economy vehicles

Section 301. Leadership Responsibilities
GSA (as well as other agencies) is responsible for providing leadership to the other Federal agencies in implementing programs to meet the goals of this order.

GSA AutoChoice provides the miles per gallon (MPG) rating for light-duty vehicles, as well as the available models and fuel types for the current model year, along with the emissions ratings. This will assist agencies in evaluating the fuel economy efficiencies for the particular light-duty vehicle that would meet their mission.

EPA's Clean Fuel Fleet Program (CFFP)
The Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990 (CAAA) requires Federal fleets to acquire low emission vehicles (LEVs) in the following locations: (50% of all Federal fleet light duty acquisitions for FY2000 and thereafter must have an LEV rating).

- Atlanta, GA
- Chicago, IL (and surrounding counties)
- Milwaukee, WI (and surrounding counties)
- Denver-Boulder, CO

Q. What types of alternative fuel vehicles are currently available from GSA?
A. There are two types of AFVs available: flexible fuel and dedicated fuel vehicles.

Flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) have only one fuel tank. Flexible fuel vehicles are designed to operate on alcohol, gasoline or any combination of both. The vehicle's fuel system automatically adjusts the engine, depending on what type of fuel or mixture is being used.

Dedicated fuel vehicles run on one fuel only. A dedicated AFV has one fuel system and is designed to run exclusively on alternative fuel. Dedicated vehicles are available with compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquified petroleum gas (LPG).

Q. What types of alternative motor fuels are available?
A. Ethanol, natural gas and biodiesel are available as motor fuels for light duty vehicles. GSA offers a wide range of vehicles capable of operating on some of these types of alternative motor fuels.

Ethanol is a liquid alcohol fuel that can be made from corn, grains or agricultural waste. Ethanol is a renewable energy source and is domestically produced. Ethanol powered vehicles have good performance and emissions characteristics. Ethanol is stored in a liquid form making it very similar to gasoline in handling procedures. Ethanol is most commonly found in a mixture of up to 85% ethanol and 15% unleaded gasoline (E85).

Natural gas is a domestically available, odorless gas. Compressed natural gas (CNG) is typically stored and dispensed at 3000-3600 psi. (Buses only).

Biodiesel is a clean burning alternative fuel, produced from domestic, renewable resources. Biodiesel contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend. It can be used in compression-ignition (diesel) engines with no major modifications. See www.gsa.gov/biodiesel for more information.

GSA Automotive
(703) 605-CARS (2277)

www.autochoice.gsa.gov

To view and purchase available AFVs.

GSA Automotive can assist you in selecting the right AFV for your agency's fleet.

For information on leasing AFVs through GSA, please visit: www.gsa.gov/afv

For more general information regarding GSA, contact the National Customer Service Center at (800) 488-3111 or email NCSCustomer.service@gsa.gov.

AFV Information Sources

Sources
National Alternative Fuels Hotline: 1-800-423-1363
U.S. DOE's Clean Cities Program: 1-800-Ccities
Environmental Protection Agency Website:

Web Sites
www.afdc.doe.gov
www.ccities.doe.gov
www.epa.gov
www.e85fuel.com

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