

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MANHATTAN AREA CLEAN CITIES DESIGNATION

MANHATTAN, Kansas, September 20, 1999—The City of Manhattan and the Manhattan Area Clean Cities Coalition will officially be designated as a Clean City under the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program on October 4, 1999. The Program promotes the use of cleaner-burning fuels such as compressed natural gas, propane, ethanol, methanol, electricity and bio-diesel. Manhattan will become the country's 76th Clean City and will join Kansas City and Southwest Kansas (including Liberal and Hugoton) as the third Clean City in the State.

“The achievement of this designation is the result of the work and dedication of all stakeholders. Manhattan is one of the very few cities involved in the Program nationally which does not have an existing air quality problem. This fact demonstrates the proactive nature of this community,” said Diane Stoddard, Assistant to the City Manager, and also the local coordinator of the Clean Cities Program.

The designation ceremony itself will occur at Manhattan Town Center Mall Center Court on October 4, 1999 at 5:00 p.m., and will be attended by various local, state and national dignitaries. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. At the ceremony, the Coalition's public and private sector stakeholders will indicate their commitment to alternative fuels by signing a non-binding memorandum of understanding. Current stakeholders include the City of Manhattan, Riley County Police Department, Kansas State University Division of Facilities, Kansas State University Division of Parking Services, Kansas State University National Gas Machinery Laboratory, Transportation Design & Manufacturing, Inc., Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Gas Service, Fort Riley, Kansas Corporation Commission, U.S.D. 383 - Manhattan/Ogden School District, Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society, Baer Pro Payne, Riley County - Manhattan Health Department, Lovett's LP Gas Services, Riley County A.T.A., Riley County, U.S. General Services Administration, and the Propane Marketers' Association of Kansas. Together, these organizations have committed to the purchase of over 300 alternative fuel vehicles over the next five years.

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The Coalition will also host an alternative fuels exposition at Manhattan Town Center in conjunction with the designation ceremony. A variety of alternative fuel vehicles and products will be present for the public to view, and representatives will be available to answer questions. The exposition will occur on Monday, October 4 from 10:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m.

In addition to the exposition, the Coalition will hold an official dedication of the new compressed natural gas fueling facility at 2:00 p.m. on October 4, 1999. The station is located near the intersection of Fort Riley Boulevard and Juliette Avenue at the City Street Shop Facility. The facility will be the first public-access CNG fueling station in Manhattan, and will complement the recently-opened station at Fort Riley.

The public is invited to attend all events associated with Manhattan's designation as the 76th Clean City in the nation.

Additional information about the Manhattan Area Clean Cities Coalition can be found on the City's homepage: <http://www.ci.manhattan.ks.us>. For more information about the designation ceremony, contact Diane Stoddard, Clean Cities Coordinator and Assistant to the City Manager at (785) 587-2404 or stoddard@ci.manhattan.ks.us.

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