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Contact: Lisa Hart
Center for Automotive Research
(734) 929-0465
Hart@cargroup.org

New study shows fleets can spur major decreases in emissions and fuel consumption--and increase green job growth

AT&T fleet program provides case study

ANN ARBOR, Mich., October 6, 2009 – The “greening” of corporate vehicle fleets presents an opportunity to move a substantial number of highly efficient, clean fuel vehicles onto the road in a relatively short timeframe—with results that are both environmentally and economically positive. A newly released report by the Sustainable Transportation and Communities group at the Center for Automotive Research (CAR), an Ann Arbor-based nonprofit research organization, examines the economic and environmental contributions of converting corporate fleets from gasoline to compressed natural gas (CNG) and hybrid vehicles.

Using AT&T’s vehicle replacement program as a case study, CAR estimated the impact of buying or converting 15,000 vehicles to cleaner technology over a 10-year period. Replacing fleet vehicles powered by standard internal combustion engines with either hybrid vehicles or vans and trucks converted to CNG could reduce gasoline consumption by more than 49 million gallons during the next 10 years and trim carbon dioxide emissions by 211,000 metric tons total

over that period – the equivalent of removing more than 38,000 vehicles from the road for a year. In addition, the AT&T replacement program will help support an average of 1,000 vehicle-manufacturing related jobs each year from 2009-2013.

“This example of corporate leadership, if followed by a significant portion of other public and private fleets, could have a huge impact on the release of greenhouse gases and significantly reduce the dependence on foreign oil. For example, the emissions equal to 600,000 vehicles and the consumption of 15 million barrels of oil could be eliminated if 25% of the fleets had similar programs.” said Kim Hill, director of the Sustainable Transportation and Communities group at CAR, and the study’s lead. “In addition, demand for these types of advanced technology vehicles by the nation’s fleets could spur a growth in domestic green jobs.”

“If the country is serious about increasing the number of fuel-efficient vehicles on the road in the near future, the fleets of America, with their rapid turnover of vehicles, represent the best opportunity in the shortest timeframe,” said Hill.

CAR performs numerous studies for federal, state and local governments, corporations, and foundations. Financial support for this study was provided by AT&T. The complete study is available at www.cargroup.org

The Center for Automotive Research’s mission is to conduct research on significant issues related to the future direction of the global automotive industry, as well as organize and conduct forums of value to the automotive community. The Sustainable Transportation and Communities group focuses its research on the long-term viability and sustainability of the auto industry, the surface transportation system, and the communities that lie at the heart of both the industry and the system.

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