



## CLEAN CAR STANDARD FACT SHEET

### **What is the Clean Car standard?**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulates the air pollution from passenger cars and trucks through the federal Clean Air Act. Individual states have the option to go beyond the federal requirements and adopt a “Clean Car” standard for new vehicles.

The Clean Car standard has several components, including the following:

- (1) Tailpipe emissions standards for air pollution;
- (2) Requirements for sale of some Zero Emission Vehicles in the state; and
- (3) Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions overall from vehicles sold in the state.

Specifically, the Clean Car standard regulates emissions of:

- Non-methane organic gases
- Carbon monoxide
- Oxides of nitrogen
- Particulate matter
- Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and air conditioning refrigerants)

Eleven states have already adopted the Clean Car standard. Several states, including New Mexico, are pursuing state adoption of the Clean Car standard.

### **Why is New Mexico adopting the Clean Car standard?**

Vehicles in New Mexico account for about 17% of all of our state’s greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, vehicle usage results in the emissions of air pollutants that negatively affect our state’s air quality and visibility at our scenic vistas. In 2006, Governor Richardson’s Climate Change Advisory Group unanimously recommended adoption of the Clean Car standard in New Mexico to reduce state greenhouse gas emissions. The Governor included a requirement for a Clean Car standard in his Executive Order on Climate Change Action (2006-069). Adopting the Clean Car standard in New Mexico will result in cleaner air, health benefits, and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases.

### **When will the Clean Car standard take effect?**

New Mexico is proposing to adopt the Clean Car standard in 2008, but will delay implementation until Model Year 2011 (calendar year 2010). This required 2-year delay will provide car manufacturers and dealerships time to comply with the new regulations.

## **How will the Clean Car standard affect me?**

The Clean Car standard will require some automobile manufacturers to produce and deliver to New Mexico vehicles that have been certified to meet the Clean Car standard. Car dealerships will be required to sell new vehicles that have been certified. Customers purchasing a new vehicle will be required to purchase a certified vehicle. The standard affects manufacturers differently depending on their size; smaller manufacturers do not have to comply at the same level as larger manufacturers. Used vehicles will not be affected by this rule. A wide selection of new vehicles will still be available, including sport-utility vehicles, trucks, and cars.

Clean new vehicles may cost several hundred to several thousand dollars more per vehicle for manufacturers to produce, which may translate into slightly higher vehicle prices for some new cars and trucks. However, these clean vehicles will be more fuel-efficient and will be covered with comprehensive warranties, resulting in fuel savings and lower maintenance costs for the consumer. Some analyses have estimated that the increased vehicle cost would be recouped in approximately 3 years due to the lower operating costs. Initial vehicle costs may be further offset by federal and local financial and tax incentives.

## **How is a “Clean Car” different than a normal car?**

Technologies to produce “clean cars” are readily available to manufacturers right now. Technology can be applied to conventional vehicles or may include battery hybrid vehicles or vehicles that run on alternative fuels. Examples of available technologies that could specifically address greenhouse gas emissions includes variable valve timing, cylinder deactivation, engine downsizing combined with turbo-charging, improved aerodynamics, and changes to air conditioning systems. Some examples of Clean Cars currently on the market include the Toyota Prius, Toyota Highlander Hybrid, Ford Escape Hybrid, and the Honda Civic Hybrid.

## **Where can I find more information?**

Go online to: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/ghg/CleanNewCars.html> or <http://www.environmentnewmexico.org/clean-air/clean-cars>

## **How can I comment on the Clean Car standard in New Mexico?**

Today through **July 16, 2007**, we welcome your comments on the Clean Car standard.

Comments are accepted by e-mail at: [tracy.melbihess@state.nm.us](mailto:tracy.melbihess@state.nm.us) or [andy.berger@state.nm.us](mailto:andy.berger@state.nm.us)

Or, contact Tracy or Andy at NMED's Air Quality Bureau:

New Mexico Environment Department  
Air Quality Bureau  
2044 Galisteo  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

1-800-224-7009