

2009 Local Government Gas Cap Program

Why are we participating in this program?

This is a pilot program organized by the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) that includes 8 local government fleets. The concept is based on a program started by the RAQC several ago that tested the gas caps on employee-owned vehicles at large local employer sites. The program evolved because of a suggestion by a local government fleet manager that wondered if it was possible to test government fleet vehicles instead of just employee vehicles. If the program works, it would be one of the first programs of its kind in the country and could grow to include other governmental fleets in Colorado and help to greatly reduce emissions and ground-level ozone pollution.

How much does it cost?

Because of grant funding awarded to the RAQC specifically for this program, the cost to you is FREE. Some fleet managers plan to include the gas cap test in annual preventative maintenance done to each vehicle so the staff time will be minimal in assessing an actual cost. The benefit to you is that as the program becomes larger, you will be recognized in the community for making a contribution to air quality improvement in the Denver-metro area.

Why test gas caps?

A faulty gas cap can leak up to one gallon of gasoline every 15 days, which contributes greatly to ground-level ozone pollution. Evaporative emissions from each faulty or missing gas cap can amount to an average of 165 pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) per year, which is a major contributor to ground-level ozone pollution. Not only is this bad for the air and for public health, but it is a waste of money and gasoline. Participating in this program will help to save money as well as reduce ground-level ozone pollution in the Denver-metro area.

How does the program work?

The RAQC will provide the participating local government fleets with a gas cap testing kit. After that, it is up to each individual fleet maintenance department to decide how to implement the testing whether it be with annually scheduled preventative maintenance or otherwise. As for replacing the caps, all fleet managers will meet with RAQC staff to decide on a process for re-ordering the replacements and making sure they are placed on the vehicles. The RAQC has funds available to cover the costs of the new gas caps as well as delivery of the caps.

What do we need to do?

What the RAQC asks for in return for providing new gas caps for fleet vehicles is for fleet managers to track the failed gas caps and vehicle make and model, so we will have references for the amount of emissions reductions that this program provides. It will also be beneficial to each city to know which types of vehicles are likely to have a faulty gas cap.