

Policy brief: Clean fuels and vehicles

Statement of issue

The use of cleaner fuels and vehicles decreases local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, both of which improve quality of life for all. CIVITAS cities seek to explore innovations and share best practice that facilitate this, whilst stimulating the spread of clean and energy-efficient public and private vehicles for passenger and freight transport.

Biodiesel or biogas vehicles are seen as crucial to transition away from fossil fuels. CIVITAS cities test the use of biodiesel, biogas, compressed natural gas (CNG), and hybrid vehicles. They also develop expertise in procurement and tendering and explore opportunities to source biofuels locally.



Policy options

Sustainable Transport Forum

Following the adoption of the [Directive on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure](#) (2014/94/EU), the European Commission (EC) created the [Sustainable Transport Forum](#) (STF). Its primary purpose is to help the EC realise the [Clean Power for Transport](#) strategy, facilitate the implementation of Directive 2014/94/EU, and support the Union's activities and programmes to foster the creation of alternative fuel infrastructure.

The STF includes all 28 Member States and 32 stakeholders from the alternative fuels industry. It enables coordination, a structured dialogue, and the exchange of best practices, thus providing the opportunity to discuss practical issues that could be encountered during the implementation of the Directive.

The Clean Bus Deployment initiative

Clean buses bring with them considerable public health benefits - greenhouse gas, air pollutant, and noise emissions are all reduced. Quiet and smooth journeys ensure greater passenger comfort and route choices, making public transport more attractive.

Together the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions launched an initiative in July 2017 dedicated to accelerating the roll-out of clean (alternatively fuelled) buses - the [Clean Bus Deployment initiative](#).

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This is based on three key pillars:

1. A [public declaration](#) endorsing the common ambition of cities and manufacturers to accelerate clean bus roll-out. In May 2018, signatories included nearly 50 cities, 20 manufacturers, and many other prominent transport-related organisations.
2. Creating a deployment platform where public authorities, public transport operators, manufacturers, and financial organisations come together.
3. Creating an expert group that brings together actors from the demand and supply side. This process is ongoing.

The Clean Mobility Package – revision of the Clean Vehicles Directive

On 8 November 2017, the European Commission presented a proposal to revise the [Clean Vehicles Directive](#). This promoted clean mobility solutions in public procurement tenders, with the aim of boosting demand for and deployment of clean mobility solutions.

The revision foresees simpler rules to support public authorities in the renewal of their fleet and drive innovation for cleaner vehicles, while representing an opportunity for cities to be ambitious and drive the market through procurement. This revision formed part of the wider [Clean Mobility Package](#).

Policy recommendations

[ELIPTIC](#), an CIVITAS project, supports the European Commission to explore policy frameworks and measures to boost alternatively fuelled vehicle fleet uptake in urban areas.

In its [Factor 100 campaign](#) (one e-bus equals 100 e-cars), ELIPTIC outlines that if financial support for the purchase of electric buses reflected their factor 100 impact, the purchase of each 18-metre electric bus would be subsidised by €500,000 and each 12-metre e-bus by €400,000. With this, it would be possible to quickly achieve a substantial reduction in local and global emissions and improve overall traffic conditions.

Getting in touch with CIVITAS

The CIVITAS Thematic Group Clean fuels and vehicles looks at solutions that stimulate the spread of clean and energy-efficient vehicles, including private and public fleets. It is also the go-to point for projects and contacts on e-mobility and clean vehicles.

Visit the group page [here](#) and subscribe to join the community.

For more information on clean fuels and vehicles, contact Yannick Bousse - yannick.bousse@uitp.org