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Strickland administration drives fleet savings

Strickland administration cost-cutting and efficiency initiatives led to state savings in the operations of the state's vehicle fleet in 2009 while increasing the use of alternative fuels to power those vehicles.

A [report](#) from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on state fleet operations for 2009 shows state workers are driving less for work and the state's switch to compact versus mid-sized automobiles for new vehicle purchases is beginning to save the state money.

DAS also has received two national awards for Ohio's initiative to use more E85 and biodiesel fuels in the state's fleet.

"The state's fleet management operation coupled with cost cuts implemented by Governor Ted Strickland show that state government is moving the bar on efficiency and reduced spending," DAS Director Hugh Quill said.

"We are particularly proud at DAS of the fact that we're helping state agencies save money while being 'green' and promoting energy independence," Quill said.

Report highlights include:

- The number of state passenger vehicles decreased for another year – down 1 percent or 65 vehicles in 2009.
- State drivers logged 6.25 million fewer miles in their personal vehicles for state business in 2009, a 25 percent reduction from 2008. Mileage reimbursement for the use of personal vehicles is more expensive for state agencies than using state cars for business. Overall, state agencies saved \$804,691 by this 25 percent reduction. Administration cost-cutting measures had a lot to do with the reduction in mileage reimbursements. For example, the controls on travel expenses and the emphasis on teleconferencing and other alternatives to face-to-face meetings helped cut employee travel.
- The state spent \$5.27 million less in 2009 on all fuel for vehicles statewide. Statewide employee travel restrictions and market forces helped to reduce fuel costs from 2008.
- Ohio grew its use of alternative fuel use for the second year, using 1.7 million gallons of E85 and B20 biodiesel. Although overall fuel use was down statewide, the growth in the number of alternative fuel gallons used was up 1 percent from 2008. In 2008 -

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- the first full year of the administration's effort to boost the use of alternative fuels – the increase was 398 percent for E85 and 949 percent for biodiesel.
- In 2009, the DAS Office of Fleet Management received two national awards for its alternative fuel efforts from the National Association of State Chief Administrators and the National Association of Fleet Administrators. Both awards lauded the state's use of the [Alternative Fuel Scorecard](#) and educational efforts undertaken by DAS.
 - The state's switch in 2009 to the compact car as the default vehicle for new vehicle purchases saved the state \$713,000 in procurement costs over the former mid-sized sedans purchased for state use. In addition, the maintenance and operational costs of the compact cars came in at 9 cents per mile versus 12 cents per mile for the mid-size autos.