

**OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE**

CHESTER J. CULVER GOVERNOR ROYA STANLEY PATTY JUDGE LT. GOVERNOR DIRECTOR

December 31, 2007

**State Government E85 Use Plan**

Governor Culver issued Executive Order 3 on June 21st, 2007. The Executive Order directs that at least 60 percent of fuel purchases in state flexible fuel vehicles be E85 by June 30, 2009. The Order also directed “the Director of the Office of Energy Independence, in consultation with the Director of Administrative Services, shall submit a *State Government E85 Use Plan*.”

The following recommendations are immediate actions that can be taken to ensure that the state reaches the Governor’s goal of 60 percent E85 fuel use by June 30, 2009.

Policy Recommendations

* Implement a universal E85 sales code to properly code and measure product sales. All biofuels retail infrastructure grants awarded by the Department of Economic Development shall require that all grantees implement the proper coding of E85 and biodiesel. Only with such uniform sales codes might there be a practical, reliable quantification of E85 sold in Iowa.
* Establish a task force as a mode of discussion to increase E85 and biodiesel use for state government, local government, and private industry. Task force findings will be used by this office to identify barriers to E85 use and increasing state agencies participation.
* Include an E85 Station Finder booklet in every state vehicle. The booklet, designed by the DOT, will allow state employees to easily find E85 stations throughout the state. The booklet shall be updated every 3 months by DAS.
* Develop, in conjunction with DAS, a trip planner web based application for the OEI website that allows state employees to plan state travel while highlighting E85 stations along the trip route.
* Establish and maintain a current list of all E85 retail stations in Iowa on the OEI’s website. Other state agencies should link to the OEI website to ensure accurate information on all state web pages.
* Direct agencies to ensure that employees use E85 and shall provide an agency report quarterly to be published on the OEI website.
* Issue awards to state employees annually for best practices in promoting the use of E85.
* Deliver educational brochures to every state employee when checking out a vehicle from the state fleet.
* E-mail the Governor’s guidance on E85 standards to all state employees to ensure employee engagement.

The Office of Energy Independence reviewed numerous state policies that directed employees to use biofuels. Twenty-four different states have encouraged the use of biofuels at the state level through executive orders or administrative code. In reviewing these policies it is clear that Iowa is a leader in engaging state employees to use biofuels.

EO 41 directed state agencies to purchase flexible fuel vehicles and it is important to continue that policy. The policies of EO41 should not be discarded but reinvigorated to ensure that state employees are aware of continued participation.

EO 3 sets a measurable goal. By ensuring that data is traceable, retail station information is readily available, and state employees are aware of the expectation, EO3 will demonstrate that Iowa is the national leader in employee use of E85, and the state is leading by example.