

# Fuel Efficient Vehicles

Throughout history, the U.S. Postal Service has utilized new modes of transportation in its ongoing effort to provide prompt, reliable, universal mail delivery. From horse-drawn wagons and stage coaches, to trains, automobiles, planes and alternative fuel-capable vehicles, the Postal Service has been at the cutting edge of transportation. Now, with one of the largest civilian government fleets in the world — nearly 212,000 vehicles traveling 1.3 billion miles a year — USPS consistently looks for ways to reduce the environmental impact of its fleet.

- The Postal Service has more than 42,000 alternative fuel-capable vehicles, which are primarily E-85 Flex Fuel vehicles. USPS also uses electric, compressed natural gas, bio-diesel and hydrogen fuel cells in our effort to better understand available technology.
- Since FY 2005, the use of alternative fuels has increased 141 percent.
- The first electric vehicle joined the Postal Service fleet in 1899, after proving to be more efficient than a horse and buggy. Today, electric vans are used to transport mail to processing facilities in New York City.
- Five Long Life Vehicles (LLV) have been converted to battery electric propulsion by different suppliers for evaluation for local mail delivery service.
- The Postal Service completed a solicitation and contract award for the retrofit of 410 heavy duty vehicles in California with new particulate filters to meet California Air Resource Board (CARB) requirements.
- The Postal Service knows investment in vehicle technology must continue even during difficult times. USPS has a partnership with the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center to test fuel-cell vehicles. Tests are being continued on electric two-ton vehicles and other types of alternative-fuel types of vehicles.
- The Postal Service reduces the economic risk associated with testing new technology by using a vehicle R&D strategy — testing fuels and technologies in operational conditions to determine their viability and value to postal operations.
- Mail also is delivered the most energy efficient way possible: it's walked. This “fleet of feet” delivers mail door-to-door and neighbor-to-neighbor by walking nearly 7,800 mail delivery routes every day. USPS also has nearly 75,000 “park and loop” routes, where letter carriers deliver mail on foot after driving to neighborhoods.