

NYSERDA

U.S. Department of Energy Alternative Fuel Station Locator

General Description

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) provides up-to-date information on alternative fueling station locations. The AFDC's interactive Alternative Fueling Station Locator <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/locator/stations/> displays fueling stations that dispense electricity, compressed natural gas, ethanol, biodiesel, propane, and other alternative transportation fuels. Selecting an individual station displays the name of the station host, address, and contact information. Most of the electric vehicle charging stations also include charging rate information (AC Level 1, AC Level 2, or DC Fast Charge), number of charging ports, and hours of accessibility. Private and planned stations can be displayed by selecting "more search options."

Data Collection Methodology

The data in the [Alternative Fueling Station Locator](#) are gathered and verified through a variety of methods. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) obtains information about new stations from trade media, Clean Cities coordinators, a [Submit New Station](#) form on the Station Locator website, and through collaborating with infrastructure equipment and fuel providers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and industry groups.

Users submitting updates through the "Submit New Station" or "Report a Change" forms will receive an email confirmation of their submittal. NREL will verify station details before the station is added or updated in the Station Locator. The turn-around time for updates will depend on the completeness of the information provided, as well as the responsiveness of the station or point of contact.

Statistical and Analytic Issues

NREL regularly compares its station data with those of other relevant trade organizations and websites. Differences in methodologies, data confirmation, and inclusion criteria may result in slight variations between NREL's database and those maintained by other organizations. NREL also collaborates with alternative fuel industry groups to identify discrepancies in data and develop data sharing processes and best practices. NREL and its data collection subcontractor are currently collaborating with natural gas, electric drive, biodiesel, ethanol, and propane industry groups to ensure best practices are being followed for identifying new stations and confirming station changes in the most-timely manner possible.

Learn about the station location data collection methods, update schedules, and station details. See: http://www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/data_methods_stations.html.

Station Update Schedule

Existing stations in the database are contacted at least once a year on an established schedule to verify they are still operational and providing the fuel specified. Based on an established data collection schedule, the database is updated on an ongoing basis. Stations that are no longer operational or no longer provide alternative fuel are removed from the database as they are identified.

Mapping and Counting Methods

Each point on the map is counted as one station in the station count. A station appears as one point on the map, regardless of the number of fuel dispensers or charging outlets at that location. Station addresses are geocoded and mapped using an automatic geocoding application. The geocoding application returns the most accurate location based on the provided address. Station locations may also be provided by external sources (e.g., station operators) and/or verified in a geographic information system (GIS) tool like Google Earth, Google Maps, or Google StreetView. This information is considered highly accurate, and these coordinates override any information generated using the geocoding application.

Limitations of Data Use

Location details are subject to change. We recommend calling the stations to verify a station is open, hours of operation, that it is available to the public, and has the desired alternative fuel prior to making a trip to that location.