



# inroads

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**After Hours Emergencies**  
Call **1-877-454-4204** (toll-free)  
Your call will be answered through  
the Department of Energy and  
Environmental Protection Dispatch  
Office, which will assist you.

**Online**  
Go to:  
<http://das.ct.gov> and click on **FLEET OPERATIONS** for additional information on fueling locations, accident forms and mileage reports.

## Alternative Fuel

For roughly 100 years, getting fuel for your car has meant a stop at the gas station. But the times, they are a-changing. Toyota recently announced that they expect their entire vehicle lineup to be hydrogen-powered by the year 2050. If they are correct, then the gasoline engine may have entered the final quarter of its life as a primary vehicle power source.

How the transition occurs is anybody's guess, but one can be sure that it won't be instantaneous. It will no doubt take many years before critical mass is achieved. However, it is clear that we are on the threshold of a new era, as both Toyota and Kia are currently planning to offer hydrogen-powered cars for sale in California within a couple of years. The Northeast has a history of being sensitive to initiatives that are environmentally friendly, so we can expect that it won't be long before this region follows California's lead.

In the meantime, keep in mind that a number of hybrid and electric vehicle options are currently available on the DAS motor vehicle contract.

Early in 2015, Fleet Operations took delivery of three electric-powered Ford Focus sedans and assigned them to two agencies that had expressed interest. In general, the agencies using them report that performance has been excellent and concerns over range unfounded. Some of the details they have shared include:

- The roughly 70-80 miles available on a full charge has proven to be sufficient for most agency business.
- Use would increase if there were more charging stations. Stations are critical as they drastically reduce the amount of charging time from more than ten hours to two to four hours. One agency has not installed a charging station and this has limited use of their car.
- As expected, there has been some apprehension, however, once employees try the car they quickly become comfortable and continue to use it.

In December, Fleet expects to receive four 2016 Chevrolet Volts. The Volt is powered by an electric motor with an estimated range of roughly 40 miles and a gasoline engine. The transition from one power source to another is seamless. Once the Volts arrive we will be making them available to agencies on a trial basis. Give us a call and we can set you up for a demo so that you can experience the performance first hand.

Last, but certainly not least, we have just learned that DEEP has announced a program that will provide a reimbursement of \$15,000 per Electric Vehicle (EV) and \$10,000 per charger meeting program guidelines, up to a maximum of six per recipient! This means that an agency may be able to have all of the benefits of an EV without any additional lease cost when compared to a gasoline-powered vehicle. Additional details are available at [www.EVConnecticut.com](http://www.EVConnecticut.com). The deadline is December 8, so if you think you may be interested in an EV from Fleet contact Frank or Jim as soon as possible.

