

# SCSU fuels up with E85

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ST. CLOUD, Minn. - E85, a blend of 85% renewable ethanol and just 15% petroleum, will be the primary fuel for St. Cloud State University's Central Motor Pool — a fleet of vehicles available to faculty, staff, and students for travel related to university business.

Currently, 17 of 22 vehicles in the pool are flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs), which run on any combination of E85 and gasoline from a single tank. The university plans to acquire additional FFVs as it rotates older vehicles out of the fleet.

"We're doing this because we feel it's the right thing to do," said Jim Williams, director of Buildings and Grounds Management. "E85 is cleaner fuel to burn, and on average it's about 10 cents a gallon cheaper than regular fuel. It's also good for farmers in the state of Minnesota because that's where the ethanol comes from." SCSU made the decision after first considering a switch to E85 fuel more than two years ago.

E85 fuel is being stored in the university's 6,000-gallon in-ground tank. A new 2,000-gallon aboveground tank holds regular fuel for the university's older gasoline-only vehicles. Purchase and installation of the second tank cost about \$10,000 — an expense partially offset by a \$5,000 forgivable loan from the American Lung Association of Minnesota (ALAMN).

Although the ALAMN will help evaluate how much money the university saves over time by using the cheaper fuel, Williams believes the program is already a success. "E85 is better for the environment, and we're helping farmers and the local economy — we're winners, in my opinion."

According to Tim Gerlach, director of Outdoor Air Programs for the ALAMN, Minnesota leads the nation in E85 development with 14 plants producing fuel ethanol and more than 70 service stations now offering E85 to FFV drivers. Minnesota is home to 14 plants producing fuel ethanol and nearly all gasoline in the state contains up to 10% ethanol. "E85 and FFVs represent another step in developing cleaner, renewable fuels and lessening our dependence on petroleum imports," said Gerlach.

The SCSU vehicles can be fueled with either E85 or gasoline while on the road.

The ALAMN is part of the public-private E85 Team, which recently won national honors from the U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency for work in developing the Minnesota E85 market. For more information about E85 and flexible fuel vehicles, visit [www.CleanAirChoice.org](http://www.CleanAirChoice.org) or call 1-800-642-5864.

SCSU is the second largest public university in Minnesota with about 16,000 students and 175 majors, minors and pre-professional programs in Business, Education, Fine Arts & Humanities, Science & Engineering, and Social Sciences, and 50 master's degrees through the School of Graduate Studies. The university is located 70 miles northwest of the Twin Cities along the oak-crowned banks of the Mississippi River.