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## **ADEQ and Director Owens Honored as ‘Clean Air Champions’ by Clean Cities Coalitions**

PHOENIX (April 11, 2008) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Director Steve Owens have been honored as “Clean Air Champions” by the Valley of the Sun Clean Cities Coalition, Inc. and Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition.

Owens and ADEQ were selected for the “continuing leadership you have demonstrated in the pursuit of improved air quality,” according to the Clean Cities Coalition groups.

One “outstanding example of this dedication,” according to the groups, is ADEQ’s innovative School Bus Idle Reduction Program, which hundreds of school districts around the state have implemented to drastically reduce harmful bus emissions in areas where students congregate.

The School Bus Idle Reduction Program “addresses the very heart of the need to protect the health of our younger citizens,” according to the Clean Cities Coalition groups. “We also honor the contribution of your staff in dedicating their time and effort to help improve the quality of life here in the Valley of the Sun.”

Director Owens said he and ADEQ staff take great pride in the award.

“This is a great honor, and it highlights the terrific work this department does in protecting the health of all Arizona residents, especially our children,” Owens said.

The Clean Cities Coalitions are chartered by the U.S. Department of Energy with the goals of enforcing the standards of the Clean Air Act and energy security under the Energy Policy Act.