



E-Notice

May, 2004

Providing Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program (GPCCP) stakeholders with the latest alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) news.

Volume 2 / Issue 5

www.cleanair.org/cleancities

Highlights

- Clean Cities Celebrates 10th National Conference
- Changes To Clean Cities' Program Coming
- EPA Funding Available
- CNG Workshop Educates Bucks County Fleets
- Congress Could Pass CLEAR Act

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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**GPCCP AFV REBATES:
OVER \$100,000 STILL
AVAILABLE!**

(Grants are from federal CMAQ and PA AFIG funding. For more information go to www.cleanair.org/cleancities/funding.html.)

Hybrids Grab Attention at 10th National Conference



Representatives of Clean Cities coalitions from across the country gathered together in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, earlier this month as part of the 10th Annual National Clean Cities Conference. The Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition hosted the event located at the Marina Marriott along the Intercoastal Waterway. The Conference, which took place from May 2 - May 5, is a way for Clean Cities coalition representatives and other AFV advocates to celebrate their accomplishments, discuss future directions for the program and to become better educated on relevant technical issues.

At the Expo Hall the big draw were the displays of new hybrid electric vehicles, including a pick-up truck from General Motors, currently available for select fleets, and Toyota's Highlander SUV (pictured above), available next year. The hybrid electric/biodiesel Water Buses that operate along

the Intercoastal (pictured below) provided a demonstration of alternative fuels successfully being used locally.

There were a number of notable educational sessions at the Conference: Idle Reduction Strategies; the ABCs of Emissions; Hybrids; Fuel Economy; Airports; State Energy Offices and Clean Cities; The Transportation Pathway to Hydrogen; and Regional Conformity Requirements. Meanwhile, John Davis, the host of PBS's Motor Week showcased the latest episodes of his show to feature AFVs and other subjects of interest to coalitions, such as fuel economy. Next year's National Conference will return to Palm Springs, California, the scene of 2003's Conference. GPCCP stakeholders who attended the event included Paul Miles and Nancy Hushen from PECO, Coordinator Eric Cheung, Mike McClurkin of the PA Turnpike, William Otis from AmeriGas and



Mike Bannon of the Bucks County TMA.

U.S. DOE Proposes Structural Changes To Clean Cities

At a Coordinators meeting during the National Conference, U.S. DOE announced plans to restructure the National Clean Cities Program. The proposal would consolidate deployment programs under U.S. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, including Clean Cities, Rebuild America and Building Energy Codes. U.S. DOE believes that implementing this consolidation will reduce the amount of resources it needs to support each program individually. Coordinators expressed concern that the proposed reorganization could ultimately lead to the phase out of Clean Cities coalitions, although U.S. DOE representatives assured them this is not the case. For more information consult the website: www.cleanair.org/cleancities.

Retail Gas Crosses \$2 Mark

Retail gas prices continue to set records. As of May 24 average gas prices were slightly above \$2.05 according to the American Automobile Association. At the same time the per barrel price of crude oil has started to decline,

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which may lead to reductions in retail prices in the future.

EPA Has Diesel Retrofit Funding

U.S. EPA is offering \$1.5 million in funds for heavy duty diesel fleets willing to demonstrate the use of verified diesel retrofit technologies in their vehicles. EPA expects to award between 10 and 15 grants of up to \$150,000 each for projects it selects. Non-school district fleets whose emissions impact “sensitive populations” are the preferred projects for this grant. EPA recognizes the use of alternative fuels as a type of diesel retrofit project. A link to this funding opportunity is on GPCCP’s website: www.cleanair.org/cleancities.

Bucks County Hosts Natural Gas Vehicle Workshops

On May 18th, the Bucks County Visitors’ Center in Bensalem hosted a workshop to educate municipal fleets about compressed natural gas-powered vehicles. Organized by Bill Rickett, Executive Director of the Bucks County TMA, the event covered important aspects of using natural gas vehicles. An immediate goal

of the workshop was to convince new townships to participate in the Honda/FuelMaker natural gas vehicle demonstration program, which Bensalem completed earlier this year. Speakers at the event included GPCCP Coordinator Eric Cheung, PECO Energy’s Pieter Ouwerkerk, FuelMaker’s Mark Smith, American Honda’s Ira Dorfman, General Motor’s Brad Beauchamp, Lower Merion School District’s Mike Andre, and Bensalem Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:
DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEMBER UPDATE:
 This year the Ozone Action Partnership has adopted a new name: the Air Quality Partnership. The more general name reflects additional forecasting for particle pollution- a different type of pollutant from ground-level ozone. The Ozone Action Program will still continue during the summer when ozone pollution is at its highest concentrations. The Partnership will continue providing its partners and the public with forecasts and important health and environmental messages.

Law To Provide Federal AFV Tax Incentives May Still Happen

AFV advocates attached their CLEAR (Clean Efficient Automobiles Resulting from Advanced Car Technologies) Act proposal to the federal FSC/ETI bill (S. 1637), which ultimately passed the Senate. The CLEAR Act provides tax incentives for alternative fuel vehicles, infrastructure and supply. S. 1637 deals with tax and international trade issues. The House may move on their own version of S. 1637 sometime after the Memorial Day recess.

Next Working Group Meeting: June 10

GPCCP’s June 10th Working Group meeting will feature representatives from organizations that GPCCP would like to strengthen its relationships with in order to reach out to more fleets concerning AFVs. These organizations will be Bucks County TMA, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia. The meeting will be held 10 am at DVRPC’s offices in the Bourse Building (4th and Chestnut Streets).

ON THE HORIZON – GPCCP representatives will be participating in and performing outreach at the following community events and meetings.

Date	Information
June 10, 2004	Quarterly Working Group Meeting (DVRPC Offices, Philadelphia - 10 am - Noon)
June 18, 2004	Annual GPCCP Board Meeting (U.S. DOE - Philadelphia Regional Office, 10 am - Noon)
June 21, 2004	Philadelphia Diesel Difference Working Group Meeting (DVRPC Offices, Philadelphia - 10 am - Noon)

Please contact Eric Cheung for more information on any of these events. Pull up GPCCP’s future events webpage for a more comprehensive calendar of upcoming dates of interest: www.cleanair.org/cleancities/future_events.html.

GPCCP’S ALTERNATIVE FUEL PRICES
 (prices are per gallon or gallon equivalent)

Fuel	Price*	Supplier
CNG	\$1.070	PECO Energy
LPG	\$1.790	AmeriGas
B20	\$2.031*	World Energy

**Based on World Energy’s estimates of up to \$.25 more than DOE EIA’s price of diesel.
 Prices are inclusive of all relevant taxes.

Sustaining Members:



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