



The Alternative Advantage

A Publication of the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition
Promoting Clean Fuel Transportation Technologies

UNC Charlotte Receives Clean Cities Award



From left: Alan Giles, Phil Jones, Larry Lane, Stephen Terry and Joe Carpenter (COG Board Chairman)

Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition recognized **UNC Charlotte** as the recipient of its annual Clean Cities award for its clean transportation initiatives. The award was given out at the Centralina Council of Governments (COG) Board of Delegates meeting on February 13, 2008. **Alan Giles, Senior Air Quality Specialist for Mecklenburg County**, presented the award at the event. Accepting the award on behalf of UNC Charlotte was Phil Jones, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Facilities Management, Stephen Terry, Facilities Construction Engineer and Larry Lane, Supervisor Automotive / Motor Fleet Operations.

UNC Charlotte's commitment to displacing petroleum use on campus and improving air quality has made it a leader among state agencies across North Carolina. UNC Charlotte purchased its first **neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs)** to replace traditional gas-powered golf carts in 2005. Just over three years later, the campus is now home to fifty-six (56) electric vehicles. In addition, UNCC has invested in **biofuels** to fuel its vehicle fleet.

All things considered UNC Charlotte will be displacing 10,000 gallons of petroleum annually. For more information about UNC Charlotte and other local success stories visit: www.4cleanfuels.com/success_stories.asp

What's Next for the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition?

What's next for the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition?

For the past two years the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition has been an active partner in the **Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT)** program administered by the North Carolina Solar Center at NC State University. CFAT is a three year project is funded by the NC Department of Transportation, State Energy Office and the Division of Air Quality.

This program is aimed at **reducing transportation emissions** through public outreach, project funding and recognition. Our coalition has presented to many groups and fleets on the benefits of alternative fuels as part of this program. In addition, several stakeholders including **Duke Energy, City of Gastonia, Town of Cornelius, Ray Thomas Petroleum** and others have benefited

from this program's grant funds. The last round of grant funding will be awarded in the coming months.

Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition will continue to participate as a CFAT partner for the next year. To this end we **are available to give presentations and provide educational materials** on alternative fuels to our stakeholders and others in our region.

Our goal is increase awareness about the alternative fuel technologies that are available today and reduce transportation related emissions. Many of the materials and fact sheets that we use to educate on alternative fuels are available at www.4cleanfuels.com.

Please contact Jason Wager (jwager@centralina.org) or Sarah Niess (snieess@centralina.org) if you would like to learn more about these topics or get involved in the CCFC.



Jason Wager presenting to fleet managers

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Core Stakeholder Group

Mike Keziah
City of Monroe
(Chair)

Dave Navy
Charlotte Trucking
(Vice Chair)

Mike Allison
Duke Energy

Jim Burke
N.C. Cooperative
Extension Service,
Gaston County

Roger Cable
City of Gastonia

Alan Giles
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City of Concord

Elizabeth Presutti
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Marcie Smith
Gaston County Public
Works Dept.

Ray Thomas
Thomas Petroleum

Grady Truett
Gaston County Schools

Rod Trump
York Technical
College

Johnny Wear
Western Piedmont
COG

Alternative Fuel Station Map

With support from the **North Carolina State Energy Office**, CCFC has launched an **interactive map of alternative fuel stations** across all of North Carolina. The map can be accessed at www.4cleanfuels.com/mapping.asp.

The website allows users to search for **different fuel types**, such as biodiesel or ethanol, by city, zip code or interstate highway. Information on each fuel station includes a detailed map of the location, address, phone number and hours of operation.

A fleet manager can take advantage of this site by finding out which fuels are located within a certain distance of a fleet garage. Individuals can use the website to **locate fuel stations while planning a trip anywhere in the state**.



... including compressed natural gas (CNG), biofuels and others



The map shows alternative fuel stations across the state ...

The website was designed by **Rok Technologies** in Charleston, SC. Information on station locations is continually updated by North Carolina Clean Cities coordinators. If you have information about a fuel station not included on the website please contact Sarah Niess at sniess@centralina.org.

For more information on alternative fuels and station locations please visit our web site at www.4cleanfuels.com or contact us at cleanfuels@centralina.org

Regional News and Accomplishments

Around the region our stakeholders have had many successes with clean fuel technologies, here are a few of the highlights:

- ◆ **GM** held its second largest “E85 for \$0.85” event in the country in Charlotte in early December. On a cold morning more than 80 vehicles lined up to fill their tanks with E85 at the PC Mart station off of Woodlawn Rd.
- ◆ **Metrolina Biofuels** hosted a successful launch event in January for this spring’s “Introduction to Biodiesel” seminar to be offered at **Central Piedmont Community College** this spring. The 3-hour introductory course will be taught by Metrolina Biofuels’ Rich Deming and will be starting May 15th.
- ◆ **Hybrid Technologies, Inc.** was recently featured on CBS-WBTV “Car of the Future” Segment. Hybrid Technologies is hosting an **open house** at its Mooresville facility for its all-electric line of vehicles. If interested in attending please contact Christy Tullock at ctullock@hybridtechnologies.com.
- ◆ The **Town of Cornelius** recently added two neighborhood electric vehicles to their fleet (see photo). The Town received a grant from the **Clean Fuel Advanced Technology** program for the purchase of these vehicles.



National News: Record Oil Prices and Cars of the Future

If you have not been to the pump lately you are in for a surprise. In March, **crude oil prices hit record highs** with the price of crude oil topping \$110 a barrel. Many experts believe that this will translate into gasoline prices increasing to over \$3.50 a gallon going into the summer driving season. High gas and diesel prices have many individuals and fleets looking into more fuel efficient options.

There are many fuel efficient vehicles available today and the EPA's latest **Fuel Economy Guide** can help buyers compare and contrast different vehicles, including hybrids. The Guide along with other helpful fuel economy tips and information can be found at www.4cleanfuels.com/Fuel_economy.asp.



GM's concept Volt (photo courtesy of GM)

For those who are looking into the future and want to know what fuel efficient vehicles will be available down the road, look no further than the **Detroit Auto Show**. The Auto Show featured many green and efficient vehicles of the future. **General Motors** unveiled its plug-in hybrid Volt, which it claims can get up to 100 miles per gallon and will be commercially available in 2010. Another trend, many automakers launched diesel versions of their popular passenger vehicles, taking advantage of the availability of ultra-low sulfur diesel and the better fuel economy from these engines. **Honda, Toyota and Mercedes-Benz** all displayed diesel vehicles.

Technology Spotlight: Smartway Transport Program

Commercial freight trucks and rail travel over 200 billion miles a year and use **55 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel annually** (about 20% of transportation energy use). Freight is a heavy contributor to diesel emissions impacting air quality across the country.

At the same time trucking fleets are facing high diesel costs increasing the cost of transport and the price of nearly everything for consumers. To help address these issues the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** established the **Smartway Transport Partnership**, which is a voluntary program with the ground freight industry. The program provides its partners opportunities to enhance the efficiency of its operations.

Currently the program has over

600 partners that account for 400,000 trucks and **save 335 million gallons of diesel** a year.

Partners pursue many different strategies to increase truck efficiencies. These include: **idle reduction strategies, low rolling resistance tires, trailer aerodynamics and exhaust after treatment devices**. The Smartway truck is **20-25%** more efficient than a regular truck, saving



Example of a Smartway Partner Truck manufactured by Volvo

money and reducing emissions. The Smartway **Grow and Go** program also promotes alternative fuel use.

EPA **supports its partners** through offering financing packages, providing research and marketing materials and partner recognition opportunities.

Become a Smartway Partner

The Smartway Transport partnership is a voluntary program. Partners are companies in the ground transport industry who **commit to taking measures to increase the efficiency** of their operations using EPA developed tools and technologies.

To learn more about the program and related workshops and conferences visit www.epa.gov/smartway

Don't forget to regularly visit the CCFC's *Funding Opportunities and Incentives* page at:

www.4cleanfuels.com/funding.asp

NOT A MEMBER OF THE CCFC?

Call [704.372.2416](tel:704.372.2416) and ask to speak with a CCFC Coordinator or visit our website: www.4cleanfuels.com/stakeholder.asp

Get involved.

Mobile CARE Awards and Symposium—May 6th

CCFC is working with the **North Carolina Solar Center, Triangle Clean Cities Coalition** and sponsors from across the state to present the Second Annual Mobile Care Awards and Symposium. The event will be held at the Proximity Hotel in Greensboro on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. The **Proximity Hotel** is the second Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certified hotel.

The two hour symposium session will highlight important clean transportation projects, research and policies across the state.



Mr. **David Morris** from the **Institute for Local Self Reliance** will be giving the luncheon keynote address, “*Driving Our Way to Energy Independence*”. This address will be followed by the recognition of the Mobile CARE award winners who have

displayed exemplary efforts to accelerate the use of alternative fuels and advanced technologies in North Carolina.

Nominations for the Mobile CARE awards are due April 4th. Nominations are being sought for the following categories: individuals, product providers, fleets, and policy/organization innovation. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For more information on award nominations, sponsorships and registration please visit “Events” at www.cleantransportation.org



Did you know...

Although the United States still consumes the most petroleum by volume, developing economies like those of China and India have experienced a dramatic increase in petroleum consumption in recent years. China in 1990 consumed 2.30 million barrels of oil per day (mbpd) compared to 16.99 mbpd for the U.S. In 2006, China’s consumption had increased by over 200% to 7.27 mbpd compared to 20.69 mbpd for the U.S.

For your information ...

Hybrid Vehicle Calculator—The Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) has updated their hybrid vehicle calculator on their website. Users can now use the calculator compare operational costs and emissions of 2008 model year hybrid vehicles versus conventional vehicles. Check it out at www.responsiblepurchasing.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 8-9, 2008—5th Annual NC Sustainable Energy Conference
Raleigh, NC (more info at www.energync.net/conference)

April 16, 2008—Biodiesel: What Every Fleet Needs to Know
The ODB 16th Annual Spring Equipment Show – Raleigh, NC
Register at www.ncsc.ncsu.edu under Calendar, April 16

May 6, 2008—Second Annual Mobile Care Awards and Symposium
Greensboro, NC (more info under ‘Events’ at www.cleantransportation.org)

May 11-14, 2008—Alternative Fuels and Vehicles Conference and Expo
Las Vegas, NV (more info at www.afvi.org/NationalConference2008)

