

**CCFC Core Stakeholder Meeting
Centralina Cog Offices
July 25, 2007
11:00 – 1:00 pm**



ATTENDEES:

Laura Mundell
Mike Keziah
John Wear
Marcie Smith
Grady Truett
Daniel Nuckolls
Dave Navey
Roger Cable
Sarah Niess
Jason Wager

Welcomes and Introductions

Presentation "Review of Biofuels Development"

by Laura Mundell, Centralina Economic Development Commission

Feedback from the group included:

- Interest in providing regional incentives for either production or distribution – would make a difference for some fleets/local governments to be able to purchase from local producers (City of Concord)
- Regulations are important but they need to be easy to understand or will defer investments
- Could local governments pass policies to show commit to biofuels? May be politically challenging
- Coordinators will bring back set of action items for approval at next meeting

2007 Action Plan Update

- Sarah reviewed the Executive Summary for the 2007 CCFC Action Plan
- Mike suggested that the coalition seek columnist opportunities in local Observer papers

Demonstration Project

CCFC has funds to develop a demonstration project similar to the Biodiesel Pilot Program implemented last year. Suggestions for the project from the group include:

- Advertising campaign to promote successes already done around the region

Updates/Roundtable

Each person was asked what obstacles are in the way of doing a quality alternative fuel project. Responses were:

- *Dan, City of Concord*: City would like to start using biodiesel but City wants a source of biodiesel that is local (difficult to find)
- *Roger, City of Gastonia*: City has a CNG fueling stations but CNG vehicles too expensive or hard to get; current CNG vehicles are aging and are difficult to find parts for;
 - o would consider conversions if warranty and serviceable
 - o CMS has several school buses converted to NG – some grant funds available; Dave Navy said some conversions being done in Asheville
 - o Ford is doing hydrogen conversions
- *Dave, CLT Trucking*: Would like company to embrace new tech.
 - o International is a leader: CNG engine to replace diesel engine – could be an easier conversion to hydrogen when that fuel is more widely available.
 - o Barrier for company is that they are aligned with Freightliner which has not pursued these technologies. Going to propose to company to try to meet needs for alt fuels in the region as a new business plan
- *Grady, GCS*: NC legislation was recently passed requiring warranty to be covered for B20 for all buses bought this year – Grady would like it to be for higher blends.
 - o Also Grady is working with Gaston College to test fuel quality – they plan to test it at Foothills Biofuels.
 - o Still interested in demonstration jeep vehicle – would show ways to make biodiesel, etc.
- *Marcie, GC Landfill*: main concern is to find an opportunity to use methane from landfill; Obstacles include funding, private/public partnership
- *John, WPCOG*: Air quality and alt fuel outreach to the private sector has been difficult; there is a need to provide education for fleets about converting to biodiesel and the issues that may arise after changing fuels
- *Mike, City of Monroe*: Increasing their FFVs – so would like to put in an E85 tank

Other items:

- Biodiesel Quality Workshop will take place on August 15th at Gaston College
- CCFC will be tabling at the John Mayer concert on August 1st – several people volunteered at meeting

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 19th