

CCFC Core Stakeholder Meeting
September 21, 2006
9:30 – 11:30



ATTENDEES:

Tim Whitesides
Daniel Nuckolls
Ron Hancock
Mike Keziah
David Friday
Alan Giles
Mike Allison
Grady Truett
Jason Wager
Sarah Niess

ROUNDTABLE:

General questions was asked of the group - *What would everyone like to see at future Core Stakeholder meetings?*

Mike:

- Information on tank cleaning – needing to clean tanks for ULSD
- Information on new 2007 diesel engines – Mike has one on order to be delivered in March 2007. One Freightliner and one International.

Dan:

- Had a bad experience with a Tier 3 engine order – company tried to get around requirements
- Currently the City is grading its biodiesel site – plan to open next year

Grady:

- Change in administration so stall in biodiesel production project. Have all the equipment needed for the facility and have 13,000 gallon of oil to process. Next month will get something going. Oil from Lance, other County collection sites
- Plan to produce 200,000 gallons per year – use to heat schools and buses. Will use biodiesel in half of the buses – B80.
- To date 15,0000 gallons have been produced
- Will be installing DOCs on buses soon – will be doing 99 buses instead of 81 thought would get from grant money. Bid together with Cabarrus County to receive lower pricing.

Ron:

- Would like to receive more information about events and other Clean Cities activities
- Hickory/Catawba is projected to violate the new daily PM standard
- Hickory and Conover are both using biodiesel in their fleets.
- New production facility (Foothills Bio Energies.com) will supply local fleets. Producer will use a local distributor – Baumgotner Oil. The facility will be able to produce 5M gallons/year. Focused on government fleets. Hoping to be open this year and be first in state with ASTM fuel. Although Pittsboro is having grand opening on 9/25 for new 1M gallon facility.

Tim:

- More information about grants and events. Thomas Petroleum wants to be at events to educate more about biofuels. Recent event showed that people are still concerned about energy balance on ethanol. Jason mentioned that we should put latest report on energy balance on website.
- Lexington – Snelling Oil Companies putting in E-85 at station. Greensboro media interviewed station owner. Another station in Pinehurst. Will bring total ethanol stations in state to 12.

Alan:

- EPA releasing new daily PM standard – Mecklenburg County may be in violation of this new standard. State model has been revised and the model data for Mecklenburg County does not look as good.
- Gas cap replacement program is ongoing. Have done 8 facilities (450 vehicles) – 6% failure rate and are able to replace caps on spot. Leaking gas caps can cause VOC emissions and also loss of fuel. Run program through October and start back up in April. Want to hold at BP stations around the region. Setting up at a Coke event this weekend. Will be at Odyssey Day on Oct. 12th.
- Doing a ranking system for the County for best vehicles in terms of air quality for purchasing.
- Diesel retrofit workshop this fall – CCFC may want to partner on this

Mike:

- Update on manufacturers in industry if something significant is happening
- Duke continuing to test 3 hybrid trucks and making sure that the information they are collecting is accurate. People using the trucks like them as well as regular trucks and have not had any concerns with operation. Running since January. Duke considering purchasing more hybrids out of next round of trucks available. Want to gather more data about use of trucks – currently not getting as much bucket use as thought. Incremental cost is \$65,000 – willing to spend some but not the entire amount.
- Have three Escapes that also run in region.

David:

- Charlotte just ordered 28th hybrid – Hybrid Civic to replace '93 Dodge Shadow
- Cutting Pollution Where it Counts report: add replacement vehicles to report (over 100).

- Now have a departmental grant writing team to assist with grants. Pam Smith and Dan Seamore – Corporate Communications – are a part of this team. Forward grant opportunities to that person.

Coordinator Updates:

Centralina COG Awards: COG is having its second annual regional awards this year and there is a Clean Cities award to recognize a local jurisdiction that best recognizes the environmental and economic benefits of reducing consumption of fossil fuels.

SEBI Grant update: CCFC, in partnership with the other Southeast Clean Cities coalitions, has received a Department of Energy grant to assist three stations in the Charlotte area to install alt. fuel fueling infrastructure.

Biodiesel Pilot Project: CCFC is wrapping up its biodiesel pilot program it conducted with the Town of Matthews and Gaston County landfill. CCFC will be analyzing all the data collected and compiling a white paper on the program's results.

Bylaws:

Group reviewed draft bylaws and changes from the last meeting. One change was made to 5.2.B.2 to replace “??” with “contacts.” Mike Keziah motioned to approve the bylaws with the change; Dan seconded and the group unanimously approved the bylaws.

Chair nomination:

Jason reviewed options for the next Chair for CCFC. Coach has indicated that he would like to step down as Chair. We would like to recognize Coach with a lunch in November/January and with a small gift. Coach would like to nominate Commissioner Roberts for the next Chair and is willing to introduce us to her. Plan B: Staff would like to look at Mayor Bill Thunberg from Mooresville to maybe move outside Mecklenburg County. Plan C: Councilman Foxx from Charlotte may also be an option – he is on the environmental committee, has regular meetings on the environment.

Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) Grant:

Jason reviewed a draft RFP for the CFAT grant program that will hopefully be released in the beginning of October. David asked a question as to what would be considered a 20% match for vehicles – it would be 20% of the incremental cost of the vehicle.

David recommended having the grant due at the end of the month of December in order to give governmental organizations 90 days to develop an application.

Need to say “Heavy Duty” hybrid vehicles clearly.

Difficult for government organization to handle reimbursement type grants. Because grant reimburses to general funds not department.

Question about delay in CMAQ reimbursements – Concord sees their CMAQ grant as a long drawn out process.

Some questions about funding biodiesel and ethanol infrastructure – would it be more valuable for buydown. Buydown is not allowed under the grant. There are some legitimate costs for transitioning fuel tanks.