

Press Release For Immediate Release

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U.S. Department of Energy travels to Charlotte to Honor Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition with Clean Cities Designation

A local group of stakeholders from public and private sector organizations is hosting a ceremony to commemorate an important local effort in reducing the country's reliance on foreign petroleum. The Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition (CCFC) was officially designated in the U. S. Department of Energy's National Clean Cities Program on April 13, 2004.

The designation ceremony will occur at the Adam's Mark Hotel on Friday, October 15, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory will welcome a long list of dignitaries and elected officials from the region and beyond. Mayor McCrory states, "this Clean City designation will provide the Charlotte-region with another resource as we work to better address the air quality in our region."

This achievement is the result of the hard work and dedication of all stakeholders. Stakeholders worked for more than a year with a core group of stakeholders to develop a program plan submitted as an application to the Department of Energy. The Plan outlines specific steps for the advancement of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles in the region. Shelley Launey, Director of the Department of Energy's National Clean Cities program stated CCFC's program plan, "clearly illustrates the Coalition's accomplishments, understanding of National Clean Cities Program priorities, and commitment to continue building the local alternative fuel vehicle market and reducing the nations dependence on petroleum."

"The US Department of Energy is proud to formally recognize Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition. This organization is dedicated to enhancing public health and quality of life by reducing air pollution while reducing dependence on foreign oil. Clean Cities Designation recognizes the Coalition's legitimacy and celebrates their achievements" commented David Dunagan; Project Manager with the U.S. Department of Energy.

"Coach" Joe White of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board and CCFC Chairperson commented that "alternative fuels will reduce our dependence on foreign petroleum and can be an exciting piece of the air quality puzzle. The CCFC represents an important regional initiative that will be needed to improve our air quality to a level that not only meets federal requirements but also provides a better living and business environment. If we care about the lives of our children and grandchildren, this is something that we can't afford not to do."

Michael Shore, Southeast Air Quality Manager for Environmental Defense, a leading national nonprofit organization that links science, economics and law to create innovative, equitable and cost-effective solutions to society's most urgent environment problems, will be the keynote speaker. The event also will include a "ride-n-drive" open to the community to experience alternative fuel vehicles. Other attendees will include members from the Department of Energy and State Energy office.

Among the growing list of event sponsors are: Bank of America, City of Charlotte, Centralina Council of Governments, Department of Energy and Hendrick Honda.

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