

For Immediate Release

N.C. Solar Center receives grant to increase alternative fuel solutions across North Carolina

Energy Award Supports NC Alternative Fuel Implementation Efforts

RALEIGH, N.C.– The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is supporting efforts led by the N.C. Solar Center at N.C. State University to expand the use of alternative fuel and advanced vehicle technologies with a \$500,000 award for the Alternative Fuel Implementation Team (AFIT) for North Carolina Project. The AFIT project is a two-year collaboration of U.S. DOE designated Clean Cities coalitions in the Triangle, Charlotte and Asheville regions, Clean Cities coalitions in five nearby states, Advanced Energy and industry leaders such as the Biofuels Center of North Carolina, Duke Energy, Holmes Oil Co, the NC Propane Gas Association, Public Service North Carolina, and Piedmont Natural Gas.

The AFIT project is focused on reducing barriers to more widespread deployment of biofuels such as biodiesel and E85 (a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline), electric vehicles, natural gas and propane in public and private sector fleets. Fuel specific charettes will result in actions to accelerate the use of alternative transportation technology solutions to enhance North Carolina's economy and environment. In year two, a petroleum displacement plan (PDP) toolkit will be developed to assist fleet managers and vehicle owners in making decisions on which alternatives will best support their mission and goals. The PDP toolkit will include cost/benefit criteria and best application options and scenarios for specific alternative fuels based on national and North Carolina specific parameters.

A Southeast Regional Alternative Fuels Conference will draw attendees from the nearby states of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The two-day, North Carolina symposium will include sharing success stories and recognition awards. "We are very excited to have the opportunity to bring together all the key parties in the southeast to leverage our unique talents and common interests in providing transportation technology and policy solutions to energy and air quality concerns," said Anne Tazewell, Transportation Program Manager at the N.C. Solar Center and the AFIT project lead. "We look forward to the results of a cleaner environment and more business opportunities for alternative fuels."

About the North Carolina Solar Center

The North Carolina Solar Center, as part of the College of Engineering at North Carolina State University (NCSU) advances a sustainable energy economy by educating, demonstrating and providing support for clean energy technologies, practices, and policies. It serves as a resource for innovative, green energy technologies through technology demonstration, technical assistance, outreach and training. For more information about the N.C. Solar Center visit: <http://www.ncsc.ncsu.edu>. Twitter: @NCSolarCenter

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