

WINTER 2011

Triangle Clean Cities Coalition

Fueling Alternative Choices Today

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STAKEHOLDER SPECIAL EDITION

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NC Department of Transportation

North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) mission is connecting people and places in North Carolina - safely and efficiently, with accountability and environmental sensitivity. NCDOT is one of North Carolina's largest state government agencies with more than 14,000 employees and the second largest state fleet in the country. NCDOT works hard to provide high-quality transportation for travelers throughout North Carolina, including public transit, highways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, railways, aviation, and ferries.

NCDOT oversees all modes of transportation in North Carolina, including highways, ferries, rail, public transit, aviation, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation. The department also oversees North Carolina's Division of Motor Vehicles.

Programs

NCDOT oversees programs and projects that enhance safety, protect the environment and improve North Carolina's overall quality of life.

Drive Green, Save Green is a new initiative to encourage drivers to do their part for the environment by conserving fuel. "This educational campaign teaches us how a few simple green driving techniques can put green in our pocket and improve North Carolina's air quality," said NC Transportation Secretary Gene Conti. Along with the NC Division

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Charging into the Future

On November 3, 2010 Ford Motor Company and Progress Energy hosted the forum "Charging into the Future" at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC. Kathy Boyer, Lacey Jane Wolfe, and Carra Herring from Triangle Clean Cities attended the event to support Ford and Progress Energy in their efforts.



Forum participants were privileged to drive the new all-electric Ford Focus.

The purpose of the event was to bring local organizations and members of the community together to get their feedback on Ford's introduction of their new all electric vehicle. Representatives from Progress Energy, NC State University, Ford, and the City of Raleigh presented at the forum.

David Finnegan, Electric Vehicle Marketing manager, Ford Motor Company said, "there is an incredible excitement for electric vehicles in the Raleigh area. To support the rollout and acceptance of these vehicles in Raleigh and across the country, it is crucial to work with local utilities to make sure the necessary electric infrastructure is ready to help consumers understand the technology choices they will have available to meet their transportation needs."

The electric car business has a long history. In the early 1900's more than 27 companies were building electric cars and approximately a third of the cars on the road were electric. In 1915 the Ward Motor Vehicle Company offered an electric wagon for \$875 on a one-year installment plan for the vehicle and a \$10.50 month rental fee for the Edison Storage battery. These days, just about every auto manufacturer has either released or plans to release

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NC Department of Transportation

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of Air Quality, the Environmental Defense Fund, Clean Air Carolina, the Conservation Council of North Carolina and the North Carolina Conservation Network have joined forces in this effort. "Driving green is good for the planet, and good for your pocketbook," said Michael Regan, Environmental Defense Fund director for North Carolina and Southeast Climate and Air Policy. (www.ncdot.gov/programs/drivegreen/).

NCDOT is committed to reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and improving air quality in North Carolina by using biodiesel in its diesel powered fleet. "The biodiesel program is one example of our department's overall commitment to creating a more livable, sustainable future in North Carolina," said Transportation Secretary Gene Conti. "We are constantly exploring innovative ways to realize this vision, whether we are using alternative fuels like biodiesel and solar power, conserving energy at the state's first green rest area or recycling construction materials."

According to Drew Harbinson, director of NCDOT's equipment and inventory control unit, the conversion of the public fleet to the use of alternative fuels was driven by the 1990 Clean Air Act and the 1992 EPAC Energy Act, which attempts to limit the dependence of the United States on foreign oil.

The department estimates it has saved approximately 4 million gallons of fossil fuel by using biodiesel fuel since 2006, and for every gallon of biodiesel used; the amount of particulate matter released into the air is reduced by 20 percent. The fleet uses approximately 2.5 million gallons of bio-fuel diesel each year.

NC State Solar Center

The North Carolina Solar Center (NCSC) was created in 1988 and originally focused on solar energy. It has grown and expanded over the years, serving as a clearinghouse for renewable energy programs, research, technical assistance, information and training for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The Solar Center stabilizes energy costs for consumers, reduces dependence on foreign fuels, stimulates local economies, and mitigates environmental impacts associated with fossil fuels through its programs and services.



stakeholder spotlight

The NCSC is one of the premier renewable energy centers in the United States, capitalizing on its close ties with the state government of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, the renewable energy industry, and various non-profit organizations. The Solar Center is sponsored by the North Carolina Solar Center Foundation, the NC Department of Commerce's State Energy Office and the US Department of Energy.

Clean Transportation Program (www.cleantransportation.org)

The Clean Transportation Program focuses on alternative fuels and advanced transportation at the Solar Center. The Clean Transportation team works to improve energy security and **air quality by diversifying fuel** supplies and promoting economic development that utilizes local resources and cleaner technologies by collaborating with government, non-profit and businesses.

Projects

NCSC Clean Transportation is funded through fee-for-service projects and grants that aim to advance the awareness and development of advanced transportation technologies and awareness of alternative fuels. In addition to the Solar Center's own projects, they have been successful at securing funding to pass on to other organizations in the state for alternative fuel infrastructure, clean transportation vehicles, and other mobile emission reduction technologies.

Carolina Blue Skies & Green Jobs Initiative (www.carolinablueskies.net)

Carolina Blue Skies & Green Jobs Initiative is a bi-state effort led by Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) that began in May 2010, to increase availability and use of alternative fuels by deploying advanced technology vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles in North and South Carolina. The \$12 million program is funded through ARRA from the US Department of Energy (US DOE).

The NCSC received over \$1 million as part of the Carolina Blue Skies & Green Jobs Initiative. The Initiative will provide for major expansion of refueling infrastructure and alternative fuel vehicles through the collaboration of five partners in the Carolinas: the North Carolina Solar Center/NC State University, Triangle Clean Cities Coalition /Triangle J Council of Governments (COG), Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition/Centralina COG, Land-of-Sky Clean Vehicle Coalition/Land-of-Sky COG and the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition/South Carolina Energy Office.

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Charging into the Future

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hybrid-electric or all-electric vehicles.

In the US right now there are approximately 2,000 charging stations with most of them deployed in California. Each month around 300 new charging stations are being added with up to 12,000 stations expected in the next 24 months.

Julian Prosser, Assistant City Manager of Raleigh, announced that Raleigh would be celebrating the opening of its first public electric vehicle charging station on November 23, 2010 at 285 W Hargett St. He also said that the City of Raleigh plans to install a total of 30 public electric vehicle-charging stations by next September. This only adds to the excitement of having nearly 400 stations in North Carolina over the next two years.

At the close of the forum, attendees had a chance to participate in a ride-n-drive. Carra Herring, clean cities intern, gives this personal testimony of her first experience driving an all-electric car:

“I, Carra Herring personally rode and drove in the new Ford Escape Hybrid and discovered that you can barely hear the car when you turn it on. You also push a start/stop button to turn it on instead of using a key. The Escape offers the same features as a petroleum car and provides a smooth ride. I also got to drive the new all-electric Ford Focus. This is also a great car that offers a smooth ride and has a start/stop button to turn on the car. The car also accelerates just as fast as a normal car but without emitting harmful pollutants.”

Forum participants were privileged to drive the new all-electric Ford Focus.

NC State Solar Center

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The NCSC is taking the lead on behalf of project partners in developing training, outreach and education materials for the approximately 40 sub award project partners who are installing refueling infrastructure and/or purchasing alternative fuel/advanced technology vehicles. It is also managing four vehicle and infrastructure projects from the grant including:

- *Guilford County's purchase of five hybrid electric passenger vehicles.*
- *City of Winston-Salem's purchase of five neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs) and one hybrid electric utility truck*
- *City of Greensboro's purchase of two compressed natural gas (CNG) refuse haulers; five Prius hybrid electric vehicles and one CNG station*
- *City of Rocky Mount's purchase of two CNG refuse haulers and one CNG refueling station*

“This is a tremendous opportunity to expand the availability of alternative fuels in North Carolina and provide the associated environmental and energy benefits. Demonstrating how sustainability can go hand-in-hand with economic stimulus is a huge step forward,” said Anne Tazewell, Clean Transportation Manager at the NC Solar Center.

Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) (www.mobilecare.org)

CFAT is a 6-year project focused on reducing transportation related emissions in NC counties that have air quality concerns. The 2010 to 2012 project is funded by the NC Department of Transportation and covers three broad areas: funding for alternative fuel projects, recognition of exemplary activities (Mobile Care), and education. CFAT can provide up to 80% of project costs for hybrid electric vehicles and diesel retrofits, refueling infrastructure, alternative fuel vehicles, and idle reduction technologies.

Some outreach efforts include individual consultations, annual conferences, regional meetings, presentations, technical workshops and informational materials. Audiences for these events include non-profits, public and private fleet managers, fuel providers, civic organizations and other decision makers.

Clean Transportation Education Project (<http://www.ncsc.ncsu.edu/cleantransportation/altfueled/>)

The Clean Transportation Education Project (CTEP) is funded by the US DOE as a 2-year initiative that provides 48 advanced transportation technology and alternative fuel workshops across the US. The NCSC has partnered with several industry partners and Wake Technical Community College to deliver the ½ day events and provide content, one annually in each of the following subject areas: Ethanol, Compressed Natural Gas/Propane, Biodiesel, and Idle Reduction/Fuel Economy in each of six Department of Energy (DOE) Regions.

To host and encourage the attendance at the workshops, the project has teamed up with the US Clean Cities Coalitions. Attendees will learn about the advanced transportation technologies and practices and the technical, policy and future trends of alternative fuels.



P O Box 12276
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Triangle Clean Cities Coalition (TCCC) is to accelerate the use of alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies to improve air quality and energy security. We build public-private partnerships to promote the use of alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid vehicles, idle reduction technologies, and fuel economy practices.

CONTACT US:

For more information, to become a member, or to send suggestions, please contact us at:

Triangle Clean Cities Coalition
P O Box 12276
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Phone: 919.558.9400

FAX: 919.549.9390

Email: tcc@tjcog.org

Web: www.trianglecleancities.org

UPCOMING DATES

January 27, 2011 - 9:30 am - 10:30 am:

Triangle Clean Cities Coalition Stakeholder Meeting at Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

February 6-9, 2011:

National Biodiesel Board Conference, Phoenix, AZ

February 16, 2011 - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm:

Council for a Sustainable Triangle Energy Retrofit Meeting at Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

March 7-8, 2011:

Green Truck Summit, Indianapolis, IN

March 11-12, 2011:

Nissan Leaf Tour, Raleigh, NC (*exact location TBD*)

500 copies of the public document were printed at a cost of 49¢ each or \$245



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www.trianglecleancities.org