



Virginia Clean Cities



U. S. Department of Energy



Stakeholder Newsletter

Volume 4-July

Inside This Issue

Virginia Extends AFV Incentive	1
VCC Stakeholder Luncheon	2
Honda Drops CNG Civic	2
100 Best Fleets Event in Richmond	2
24M Deploys New Battery	2
The HEVT Team at Virginia Tech	3
GM & Nissan Reusing Batteries	3
VCC on Hello Harrisonburg	3
Schools Turn to Propane Buses	3
Calendar/Renewing Stakeholders	4

Diamond and Platinum Level Stakeholders



Virginia Extends \$10,000 State Alternative Fuel Vehicle Incentive Program to Local Governments



Virginia Clean Cities commends Governor McAuliffe for increasing locality access to funds to help accelerate the conversion of public sector fleets to alternative fuel vehicles in areas with some of the highest air quality issues in the Commonwealth. At the June meeting of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), the CTB approved expanding access to the Virginia Alternative Fuel Vehicles Program to local governments. This Program is funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program dollars provided to the Commonwealth by the federal government. CMAQ funds focus on areas of Virginia that have high levels of air pollution and are intended to improve air quality in those regions of the Commonwealth.

The Program provides funding to cover the incremental costs of converting public sector fleets to alternative fuel vehicles powered by fuels such as compressed natural gas, propane, or electricity. This incremental incentive is now available for use in Richmond, Northern Virginia, Fredericksburg, and Tidewater. The increased use of alternative fuels will have the added benefit of promoting public and private sector investment in fueling infrastructure.

"I would like to thank the Governor and the Commonwealth Transportation Board for their leadership on converting public sector fleets to vehicles that utilize cleaner, more economical fuels," said Alleyn Harned, Executive Director of Virginia Clean Cities. "The Governor is making good on an important part of his Virginia Energy Plan, to accelerate the use of alternative fuel vehicles in Virginia. These vehicles use fuel that is cleaner for our air and better for our economy, while meeting local and state agency energy goals."

State agencies and local governments may be reimbursed for incremental costs to transition to alternative fuels such as natural gas or propane autogas. Reimbursements are up to an average of \$10,000 for the incremental cost of new vehicles or reasonable aftermarket conversions. Allowable vehicles for this program do have limits, and must be 1) 'Buy America' compliant or have a waiver from the Federal Highway Administration for inclusion in the Program; and 2) Garaged in areas of Air Quality Non-Attainment, as recognized by the Federal CMAQ program. This Program is administered through the Virginia Department of Mines Minerals and Energy in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Transportation. Annual federal funding for this program is around \$1.13 million.

For more information, please contact Alleyn Harned at aharned@vacleancities.org

Virginia Clean Cities Stakeholder Luncheon Draws Diverse Audience

VCC held its quarterly stakeholder meeting at the Norfolk Yacht Club in June in order to bring together fleets and clean fuel leaders from across the Commonwealth of Virginia. This event was sponsored by Phillips Energy Inc. and ROUSH CleanTech in partnership with the Tidewater Area Fleet Manager's Association (TAFMA), drawing about 50 attendees from various areas of the alternative fuel world.

This meeting featured presentations by Chelsea Jenkins of ROUSH CleanTech and John Phillips of Phillips Energy Inc., on the topic of propane autogas vehicles and infrastructure. George Hrichak, the fleet manager for the City of Chesapeake, also offered insight into the real world fleet aspects of using propane vehicles. Alleyn Harned highlighted the importance of furthering VCC's mission through stakeholder support. Stakeholders allow VCC to take on projects that would otherwise not be possible in order to improve air quality, further economic opportunity, and increase energy security in the Commonwealth.

If you are interested in becoming a VCC Stakeholder, please visit www.vacleancities.org/about/join-us/ to learn about the various benefits this memberships brings. Thank you to all who attended and continue to support Virginia Clean Cities!

Honda Drops HEV & CNG Civic After 15 Years



On June 17, Honda announced that they will be phasing out efforts to develop natural gas vehicles in order to focus on hybrids, fuel cells and electric vehicles.

Honda will stop selling the CNG Civic and the Civic Hybrid this year while working to develop a next-generation, two-motor hybrid system that will appear in a new Accord Hybrid due by 2018. The automaker will also offer a redesigned hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle next year.

The fuel cell vehicle, battery-electric car and plug-in hybrids "will become a mainstream, volume pillar for the Honda brand," according to John Mendel, executive VP of American Honda Motor Company.

Since 1998, Honda has tried to commercialize natural-gas vehicles, but the lack of a fueling infrastructure posed too great a barrier. The company said it has sold about 19,000 natural-gas vehicles, mainly to taxi and commercial fleets.

The 100 Best Fleets in North America Event in Richmond

The 100 Best Fleets in North America will be hosting an event titled "Implementing Best Business Practices; Solutions to the Biggest Fleet Challenges in 2015" in Richmond on July 17th.

In partnership with the City of Richmond and VCC, this event will feature a roundtable discussion facilitated by some of the best fleet minds in the industry.

In 2015, Virginia has nine of The 100 Best & Honorable Mention Fleets and several of these Best Fleets will be represented by speakers including Facundo Tassara of Norfolk, Thomas Westergaard of Prince William County, John McCorkhill of City of Lynchburg, Michael Biggs of the City of Richmond, and Alleyn Harned of Virginia Clean Cities.

Every fleet organization attending will receive a free 200-page fleet audit that has been valued at \$50,000.

The cost to attend is \$125 for the first team member and \$95 for any additional team members. Current Virginia Clean Cities stakeholders get 2-for-1 entry to this event. Lunch and a tour of the award winning facility are also included. To register for this event, please click [here](#)

24M Introduces the Semisolid Lithium-Ion Battery

24M unveiled a new semisolid lithium-ion cell in late June that may solve the grand challenge of energy storage by enabling a new, cost-effective class of the lithium-ion battery.

This is one of the most significant advancements in lithium-ion technology in over two decades, combining an overhaul in battery cell design with a series of manufacturing innovations that could slash today's lithium-ion costs by 50% while improving battery performance. This technology could accelerate the global adoption of affordable energy storage.

This simple but breakthrough cell design is made possible by the semisolid thick electrode, which eliminates 80% of inactive materials previously used, increases the active layer thickness, and greatly reduces cell creation time. 24M cells are currently undergoing customer trials.



Virginia Tech EcoCAR Team Takes Second at Year 1 Competition



The Hybrid Electric Vehicle Team at Virginia Tech recently traveled to Seattle where they finished in second in the EcoCAR 3 Year One Competition, which emphasized the use of math-based design and simulation tools to design a cutting-edge, eco-friendly alternative to the 2016 Chevy Camaro. This year's team was composed of about 50 members, ranging from seniors who form the official competition team, as well as five Team Leadership members, students in independent study programs, and volunteers who support the HEVT throughout the year.

At the Year 1 competition, the team had the opportunity to give final presentations to representatives from General Motors, the Department of Energy, Argonne National Lab and other competition sponsors. These final presentations covered areas including mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, business, and communications. Teams also hosted a "trade show" at the Year 1 finals to demonstrate their progress, complete with elaborate posters and even full digital simulations.

The defending champion of the EcoCAR 2 competition, Ohio State University, took home first place this year while the University of Waterloo finished third. This Year 1 competition has set the stage for the next three years, where the teams will have the chance to implement their designs and continue to learn about vehicle development.

GM and Nissan Reusing Old Electric Car Batteries

For years automakers have looked for ways to reuse the batteries from electric cars. Nissan recently announced a partnership with Green Charge Networks, an energy storage provider, to sell stationary systems built around used Leaf batteries to businesses.

General Motors said it is using old batteries from its first-generation Chevrolet Volt for secondary purposes including powering an office building. GM is continuing to focus on extending the economic life of a battery when it is no longer being used in an electric vehicle. Currently, five Volt batteries are being used to power the GM Enterprise Data Center at its Milford Proving Ground.

"Even after the battery has reached the end of its useful life in a Chevrolet Volt, up to 80 percent of its storage capacity remains," said Pablo Valencia, senior manager, battery life cycle management.

GM said it is working on the secondary functions of Volt batteries with partners to test systems for other commercial and non-commercial uses.

VCC Featured on the Podcast *Hello Harrisonburg*

Alleyn Harned, Executive Director of Virginia Clean Cities, was recently featured on a local podcast discussing the mission of VCC while also highlighting the organization's presence in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Harrisonburg is home to several alternative fuel stations, as mentioned in this interview, including a private propane station and multiple electric vehicle chargers, with several more stations proposed in the area.

To listen to Alleyn's complete interview or learn more about *Hello Harrisonburg* podcasts, please visit www.helloharrisonburg.rocks/alley/



Schools Turn to Propane Buses to Meet Stricter Emissions Standards

With tougher emissions standards, school districts are increasingly turning to propane autogas buses as an alternative to the traditional diesel school bus.

Of the top 25 school bus markets, 19 have propane-fueled vehicles in their fleets, including New York and Philadelphia. Boston recently purchased 86 of these alternative-fuel propane buses for the fall, while in Grand Junction, Colo., administrators recently signed a five-year, \$30 million contract that includes 122 propane buses.

Using propane reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 22% as compared to gasoline. These buses also provide a quieter alternative that have been noted to decrease the need for student discipline.

Although companies using other types of vehicles such as delivery vans, are likely to continue migrating toward compressed or liquid natural gas for similar economic and regulatory compliance reasons, propane has other applications such as small motorized equipment like lawn mowers.

Upcoming Events

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit

www.vacleancities.org/events

7/17/15- [The 100 Best Fleets Event](#), Richmond, VA

8/13/15 - [August Stakeholder Breakfast](#), Roanoke, VA

8/24/15 - [Fleet Technology Expo](#), Long Beach, CA

2/7/16 - [Energy Independence Summit](#), Washington, D.C.

4/7/16 - [2016 Rally at the Raceway](#), Richmond, VA

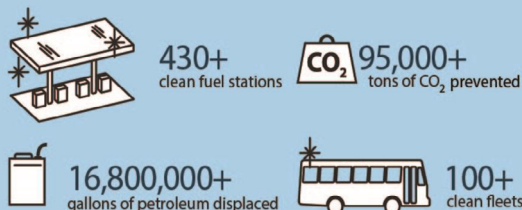
Staff News



Matt Wade has been named the new Deputy Director of Virginia Clean Cities. Matt has served as a Project Coordinator since June 2013 and will continue to provide organizational leadership support, and to oversee the program's portfolio of activities, sponsored projects and contracts.

Kaitlin Pomerleau has moved on from VCC in order to begin a new job with the American Cancer Society. Virginia Clean Cities wishes her the best as she makes this transition and would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to our mission during her great tenure with the team!

VIRGINIA CLEAN CITIES, 2014 STATS



Thank You to Our New and Renewing Stakeholders!



Alliance Autogas provides assistance with vehicle conversions and autogas fueling services. Alliance Autogas has been a VCC stakeholder since 2010 and continues to be a leader in the Commonwealth.



Amerigas is the nation's largest propane company, serving over 2 million customers in all 50 states. Amerigas is an important supplier for the state of Virginia and helps support the growing propane infrastructure.



Enspire Energy is a natural gas marketing company headquartered in Chesapeake, VA. By providing a wide range of products and services, including risk management, Enspire Energy is a valuable asset in the natural gas market.



Sonny Merryman, Inc. is a premier Thomas Built, MyBus, El Dorado Coach, Startrans and Braun dealer throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Many Virginia localities and agencies depend on Sonny Merryman for transit and shuttle buses.

Join Us Today

Virginia Clean Cities counts on a diverse membership base to facilitate our mission. If you are considering becoming a stakeholder, please visit our membership page at:

www.vacleancities.org/about/join-us.

You can also follow VCC on Twitter at [@VACleanCities](https://twitter.com/VACleanCities) or www.facebook.com/virginiacleancities