



Virginia Clean Cities



U.S. Department of Energy



Stakeholder Newsletter

Volume 2 - March

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Diamond and Platinum Level Stakeholders



Carter Machinery Company, Inc.



Rally AT THE RACEWAY



Virginia Clean Cities would like to invite you to our second annual awards night and fundraiser, the Rally at the Raceway! We have an exciting program planned for alternative fuel enthusiasts on March 26th from 4:30-7:30 pm at the Richmond International Raceway Torque Club.

Alternative fuel vehicles of all types will travel across the state to converge for the Governor's Green Fleet Awards and Virginia Clean Cities Clean Fuel Program. Entrepreneurs, fleet managers, and policy makers will come together for a State of the Alternative Fuel Industry Address. The event will also feature **ride and drive** opportunities on the racetrack, a raffle for great **prizes**, as well as drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

This will be a great opportunity for Virginia Clean Cities stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to come together to celebrate the progress that's been made in the past year and look ahead to what we can accomplish together in the future. As a coalition, your support is essential to make everything we do, including this event, a success.

Sponsorship of this event entitles your organization to the valuable opportunity to showcase your ideas, brand, and products. This event will also raise program funds to advance clean alternative fuel programs in Virginia over the next year. Event Sponsorships also include complimentary tickets. You won't want to miss this opportunity to celebrate clean fuels and network with other professionals who are invested in the Commonwealth's transportation future! For further details, visit the event site at <http://www.vacleancities.org/events/upcoming-events/>.



DC Fast Charger Deployment Update

VCC is pleased to announce the opening of five new DC Fast Chargers for electric vehicles in Virginia. This equipment provides the fastest way to charge an EV and is compatible with both SAE CCS combo (North American/European) and CHAdeMO (Japanese) standard electrical connectors. The first two are in Charlottesville at the Homewood Suites on Rt. 29 and at the 1st and Market Street Parking Lot near the Downtown Mall. The third is located at Mac's Service Center in Ashland Virginia off of Interstate 95. The fourth is located at the parking garage for the Scope Theatre in Norfolk. The fifth is located in Virginia Beach at the Bojangles off Interstate 64 on Northhampton Boulevard. For more information on the locations, please visit www.vacleancities.org/station-locator/ or www.plugshare.com.

Alternative Fuel Associations Support Clean Cities Funding Request

National trade organizations NG-VAmerica, the Electric Drive Transportation Association (EDTA), the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), Growth Energy – America's Ethanol Supporters, and the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) signed a joint letter to the Senate and House Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittees in support of funding the DOE Clean Cities Program.

The letter supports the nation's nearly 100 Clean Cities Coalitions and their 14,000 stakeholders to ensure adequate funding for the Clean Cities alternative fuel deployment program is included in the FY 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. Specifically, the letter requests \$50 million is allocated to the Clean Cities program for alternative fuel deployment activities, including \$25 million in competitive grants.

Department of Energy Releases 2015 Alternative-Fuel Vehicle Buyers Guide

The U.S. Department of Energy has released its Clean Cities 2015 Vehicle Buyer's Guide, an annual publication meant to help consumers and fleets compare and evaluate the range of alternative fuel vehicle options. This year's guide is now available online and for order through the the AFDC Publication [Library](#), and they will be seen at VCC events.

According to a DOE blog post, "This guide provides model-specific information such as vehicle specifications, suggested retail price, fuel economy, energy impact, and emissions."

The Buyer's Guide also now lists the EPA-Certified alternative fuel conversion system manufacturers for each alternative fuel.

DOE also notes there are currently 20 million light-duty AFVs on the road in the United States.

The 2015 Buyer's Guide has several exciting new EPA-certified vehicles.

For LPG, Ford and Roush are unveiling a new E-450 Cargo and passenger van.

For CNG, Chevrolet has introduced a bi-fuel Impala sedan as well as a Silverado 3500 HD for 2015. Ford provides a CNG package for the E-450 cargo van.

For biodiesel, Chrysler has introduced a Jeep Grand Cherokee SUV that operates on B20.

In the EV market, VW has introduced a new e-Golf and Kia has released a Soul EV in CARB states.

The number of Plug-in Hybrids increased in 2015, from 10 to 14, with the addition of the Audi A3 e-tron, the BMW i8, and Porsche 918 Spyder and Cayenne S E-Hybrid.

Five Common Misconceptions About Alternative Fuels

1. **MPG is only one comparison tool:** MPG is an ineffective measurement because alternative fuels don't burn at the same rate as gasoline or diesel. Instead, focus on cost per mile and track the savings against your current gasoline or diesel solution. This will provide an "apples to apples" comparison between all the fuels.
2. **You don't always have to build expensive private refueling stations:** Alternatives often have a strong network of public refueling infrastructure for fleets without private stations. Also, if private refueling is desired, installing a propane autogas station costs less than any other fueling station, including gasoline or diesel.
3. **Alternative fuels performance in cold weather:** During last winter's polar vortex, Blue Bird Corporation had alternative fuel buses that provided easy starting, heat within minutes, quiet operation, and no performance issues in weather as cold as -27 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. **Alternative fuels and vehicle warranties:** Alternative fuels voiding vehicle warranties may or may not be true, so ask your authorized dealer or installer how a new fuel system affects warranty. If you're buying direct from a manufacturer, the warranty may stay in place.
5. **There is not one alternative fuel that is perfect for every fleet:** Every fleet has its own specific fueling needs. One size does not fit all. When it comes to alternative fuels, put in the time and research to find the ideal fuel solution for your fleet. Ask yourself, "What do I need my fuel to do for me?" Source: Joe Thompson, ROUSH CleanTech

Navistar Unveils LPG School Bus



IC Bus has joined Bluebird and Thomas Built and announced that its new CE Series school bus will have a propane autogas option powered by a PSI 8.8 liter propane engine.

The CE series PSI heavy-duty propane engine offers the highest torque at the lowest speed. Its design greatly benefits stop-and-start applications to allow immediate acceleration after stops and greater hill climbing capability. This also eliminates excessive noise, heat and vibration associated with constant engine revving. The design reduces engine wear, oil usage and maintenance, while increasing durability and efficiency. For more information, visit www.icbus.com.

RFA Tackles E85Prices.com

The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) announced that it has acquired E85prices.com, a crowdsourced website that offers updated prices for E85 and other ethanol flex-fuels from thousands of stations across the country. RFA has also launched a new mobile app called the E85Prices Station Locator to strengthen its online presence and ability to provide up-to-the-minute information on the availability and pricing of ethanol flex-fuels.

In addition to E85 prices, the website maintains a station locator, a database of all existing E85 stations and blender pump locations, and an online forum. Meanwhile, E85vehicles.com helps consumers locate or identify a flex-fuel vehicle (FFV).

Fueling Alternatives for Shuttle Transportation



Sonny Merryman, Inc. will be hosting five vehicle and information showcases for Thomas Built CNG and LPG buses across Virginia in March and April. Each showcase will include a presentation, walk-around, ride and drive, and complimentary lunch for all attendees. Showcases will take place:

March 12th - [Central Virginia](#)
 March 18th - [Southwest Virginia](#)
 March 24th - [Hampton Roads](#)
 March 26th - [Richmond](#)
 April 8th - [Northern Virginia](#)

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact your Sonny Merryman, Inc representative or email fast@sonnymerryman.com.

Upcoming Events

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit

www.vacleancities.org/events



3/12/15 - [CNG & LPG Vehicle and Information Showcase](#), Central Virginia

3/18/15 - [CNG & LPG Vehicle and Information Showcase](#), Southwest Virginia

3/24/15 - [CNG & LPG Vehicle and Information Showcase](#), Hampton Roads

3/26/15 - [2nd Annual Rally at the Raceway](#), Richmond, VA

4/8/15 - [CNG & LPG Vehicle and Information Showcase](#), Northern Virginia

4/14/15 - [Energy and Sustainability Conference](#), Richmond, VA

4/15/15 - [NAFA 2015 Institute and Expo](#), Orlando, FL

4/22/15 - Earth Day

5/4/15 - [ACT Expo](#), Dallas, TX

5/19/15 - [Electric Drive Transportation Association Conference](#), Indianapolis, IN

6/4/15 - [June Stakeholder Luncheon](#), Norfolk, VA

6/18/15 - [Natural Gas Vehicles Infrastructure USA Conference](#), Atlanta, GA

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

Thank You to Our New and Renewing Stakeholders!

Carter Machinery is the Virginia distributor of Blue Bird school buses, including natural gas and propane-powered buses. They strongly believe in the preservation of the environment as it leads to a safer, healthier world for the children they strive to protect every day.



Carter Machinery Company, Inc.

Future Energy is a Virginia company advancing fuel infrastructure for natural gas and other fuels in the Tidewater region.



Virginia Natural Gas serves more than 275,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in Virginia and operates a series of CNG stations in the Commonwealth. Their parent company, AGL Resources, is one of the nation's preeminent distributors of natural gas.



Warren Energy, L.L.C., is a Richmond-based consulting firm that specializes in providing expertise to the transportation fuel and energy sectors.

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/viriniacleancities