



www.4cleanfuels.com

The Alternative Advantage

A Publication of the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition
Promoting Clean Fuel Technologies

Biofuels Come to the Region



Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition celebrated with **Ray Thomas Petroleum** the opening of two biofuel stations in the region. These stations, located in Charlotte and Statesville, were the first stations to make biofuels available to the public in the region.

Both stations will offer customers alternative fuels, including E85, E10 and Biodiesel. E10 (10% ethanol) can be used in any model vehicle manufactured after 1992 and E85 can be used in flex-fuel vehicles such as the Ford Taurus. Biodiesel is a diesel fuel alternative produced from vegetable oils that significantly reduces harmful emissions and is non-toxic. B20 (a blend of 20% biodiesel with 80% diesel) can be used in any diesel vehicle.

This is the new pump in Charlotte offering E85, E10 and B20 to customers— one of several new stations in the region. See Page 2 for more info on all stations.

State Energy Office Director, **Larry Shirley**, attended the openings and said “We are pleased to see the growth in service stations offering alternatives along with regular gasoline. These stations are a critical part of the infrastructure needed to support alternative fuel vehicles in our state.”

What’s Next for the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition?

Jason Wager and Sarah Niess
Co-Coordinator

What’s next for the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition? CCFC had a lot of successes in its first year as a designated Clean Cities program. 2005 will be remembered as the year that biofuels came to our region. After years of hearing other coalitions tout biofuel retail station opening in their regions, the Greater Charlotte Area saw its first **bio-fuel retail station**, then its second, then ... and so on this past year. We expect this trend to continue in our region as fuel prices continue to rise and the availability of biofuels becomes more predictable. CCFC will work in helping to promote these stations as well as focus on assisting fleetmanagers switching to these fuels.

Additionally, during the past year

our coalition held its first **Try & Drive Day** in partnership with the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and NC Air Awareness program. Nearly 100 fleet managers, local government officials and purchasing personnel showed up on a hot June day to test drive hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles (including President Bush’s Propane One). CCFC plans to make this an annual event.

During the coming year, CCFC will continue to assist its stakeholders in overcoming the barriers of purchasing clean fuel technologies. As always we will support partnerships that further the use of these technologies and fuels.

Please contact Jason Wager (jwager@centralina.org) or Sarah Niess (sniess@centralina.org) if you would like to learn more about these topics or get involved in the CCFC.



2005 Try & Drive Day

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Core Stakeholders

“Coach” Joe White
Mecklenburg Schools
(Chair)

Mike Keziah
City of Monroe
(Vice Chair)

Henry Bodie
Blossman Gas

Roger Cable
City of Gastonia

David Fogarty
N.C. Cooperative Extension Service,
Gaston County

David Friday
City of Charlotte

Alan Giles
Mecklenburg County

Robert Kosak
York Technical College

Ron Hancock
Western Piedmont COG

Terry Moore
Hendrick Honda

Cynthia Moseley
NC Energy Office

Daniel Nuckolls
City of Concord

Darryl Parker
Parker Media

Elizabeth Presutti
CATS

Michael Williams
General Services Administration

Gaston County Schools Embrace Biodiesel

Last Summer, the Gaston County Schools’ Transportation Department began to investigate using biodiesel in their buses to address increasing fuel prices and the Department’s growing awareness of the health risks of diesel exhaust. After failing to find funding to purchase B-20, the Department decided to look into making their own biodiesel from recycled oils. After a lot of research and some assistance from CCFC, Gaston County Schools became the first School District in the state to produce its own biodiesel, using oils collected from the school cafeterias and local restaurants and businesses.

“It is a rather simple process,” said assistant Transportation Director Grady Truett who spearheaded the project. The Department has set up a small processing facility onsite and expects to produce 12,000 gallons of B-100 in the first year.



Fueling Bus with B-20 made from recycled oils.



Grady Truett checks the current biodiesel batch.

This is a small but important step for a district which uses approximately 300,000 gallons of diesel per year. The School District is so committed to this project that they are now seeking grants to expand their production facility in order to produce 60,000 gallons of B-100 annually. This would be enough fuel to put B-20 in every district bus. Support for the project is strong throughout the community — and recently the City of Gastonia and the Gaston County Solid Waste and Recycling Division have partnered to collect oil to be used to make biodiesel for the buses.

For more information on biodiesel or if you would like to become more involved with the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition; please visit our web site at <http://www.4cleanfuels.com/>.

Regional News and Accomplishments

Around the region our stakeholders have had many successes with clean fuel technologies, here are a few of the highlights:

- ◆ The **City of Salisbury** unveiled its two new hybrid fleet vehicles in the Fall
- ◆ The **City of Charlotte** purchased hybrid vehicles for half of its calendar 2005 vehicle purchases
- ◆ **UNCC** has continued to add to its fleet of neighborhood electric vehicles, bringing their total to 13
- ◆ The **Charlotte Area Transit System** unveiled two hybrid buses last summer that will rotate on all local routes in the City
- ◆ There are currently 9 retail stations in the Greater Charlotte Area offering biofuels (including E-10, E-85 and B-20) to the public. For a **map of these biofuel retail stations**, please visit: http://www.4cleanfuels.com/Biofuels_Retail_Locations.jpg
- ◆ In our own news, **Mike Keziah** from the City of Monroe, was elected Vice-Chair of the CCFC—Congratulations Mike!

Don't forget to regularly visit the CCFC's *Funding Opportunities and Incentives* page at: www.4cleanfuels.com/funding.asp

Clean Cities Program Update: Milestone & New Opportunities



BEYOND A BILLION

Improving our national economy, our environment,
and our energy security by displacing more
than a billion gallons of petroleum

This past fall Clean Cities celebrated an important milestone - **one billion gallons of gasoline displaced** since the program's inception in 1994. To put this number in perspective, one billion gallons of gasoline is enough to fuel 2 million cars for a year. This milestone of gasoline displacement was achieved through the following Clean Cities portfolio elements: use of alternative fuel vehicles, improved fuel economy, idle reduction programs, fuels blends and hybrid vehicles. This milestone is just one step towards Clean Cities' goal of displacing 2.5 billions gallons of gasoline annually by 2020.

At the same time of meeting this major milestone, the Clean Cities Program is undergoing a few changes in the Department of Energy. The Clean Cities Program is being transferred to the **FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies (FCVT) Program**, which is developing more energy efficient and environmentally friendly transportation technologies. Clean Cities welcomes this change and the new opportunities with FreedomCAR.

Federal and State Incentives

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 includes incentives for both clean fuels and vehicles in 2006:

Fuel Tax Credits

- ⇒ There will be a \$1.00/gallon tax credit for agri-biodiesel fuels, as well as a \$.50/gallon tax credit on biodiesel fuels mixed with petroleum diesel fuels. The benefit of the credit is calculated based on the percent of biodiesel blended.
- ⇒ The Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit will allow for a tax refund of \$.51/gallon on each gallon of ethanol blended with gasoline to be paid within 20-28 days of blending the ethanol. For E85, the credit is worth \$.43/gallon, and for E10, the credit is \$.05/gallon

Vehicle Tax Credits

- ⇒ Federal tax credits up to \$3,400 will be available for light-duty Hybrids. Hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) owners are eligible for significant tax incentives from the federal government and some states. The IRS has recently made the incentives easier to claim. A new fact sheet from DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) shows how.
- ⇒ Alternative Fuel Vehicle Tax Credits will also be available, which will provide a 50% tax credit based on the incremental cost of a new, dedicated alternative fuel vehicle, plus an additional 30% if the vehicle meets tighter emission standards.

Proposed Bills in NC

The NC state legislature will consider three important bills in the 2006 session.

These bills include:

NC SB 1038/HB 1595- Mobile Source Emission Reduction Program establishes variable motor vehicle registration fees based on vehicle's pollution and fuel economy score to generate funds for public and private sector use of alternative fuel and advanced transportation technologies.

NC SB1150 / NC HB 1296- Renewable Fuels Motor Fuels Tax Exemption eliminates state motor fuels tax on biodiesel and ethanol. Tax would be reduced in proportion to the amount of renewable fuel used.

NC SB 1015/ HB1766 -Alternative Fuel Vehicle Tax Credit would provide \$2,000 tax credit for alternative fuel and hybrid electric vehicles.

For more information on Tax Credits and Incentives visit
[Http://www.ccities.doe.gov](http://www.ccities.doe.gov)

NOT A MEMBER OF THE CCFC?

Call [704.372.2416](tel:704.372.2416) and ask to speak with a CCFC Coordinator or visit our website:
www.4cleanfuels.com/stakeholder.asp

Get involved.

CCFC Promotes Fuel Economy

In Spring 2005, CCFC and its South Carolina partner, Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition (PSCFC), were awarded a grant to promote fuel economy from the Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

As part of this fuel economy campaign, CCFC has outfitted Centralina Council of Government's Ford Hybrid Escape with decals promoting fuel efficiency and Department of Energy programs. CCFC has displayed the Ford Hybrid Escape at Earth Day events, Clean Cities meetings and other events.



Additionally, CCFC and PSCFC developed a brochure and poster to promote fuel economy and to give tips to consumers on how to improve their fuel economy.

Some simple ways to improve the fuel economy of your vehicle include:

- Observe the speed limit and avoid aggressive driving
- Avoid excessive idling
- Plan and combine trips
- Perform regular services and emission inspections
- Keep tires inflated
- Buy a fuel efficient vehicle

For more information on fuel economy visit <http://www.fueleconomy.gov>. If you are interested in receiving fuel economy brochures or posters please contact CCFC.



Did you know...

Every 1% increase in fuel economy can save 85,000 barrels of petroleum per day and 1.3 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. By increasing the fuel economy of your vehicle by 1 MPG (on a vehicle that Averages 20 MPG) is a 5% improvement in fuel economy.

For your information ...

- The **Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) Cost Calculator** Tool is now available on the Clean Cities website, the tool allows fleets to compare the full costs and benefits of a HEV versus a conventional vehicle. You can find the Calculator Tool at: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/hev/calculator/fleet.php>
- **2006 Vehicle Buyer's Guide for Fleets**-find out where you can buy an alternative fuel vehicle or advanced technology vehicle and compare vehicle statistics for 2006 models. For Additional Information visit <http://www.ccities.doe.gov>

These are great resources for anyone seeking more information about cleaner vehicles.



2006 Clean Cities Congress and Expo

Where? Phoenix, AZ

When? May 7-10, 2006

For more information visit www.afvi.org

or call (702) 254-4630

FLEET Personnel: ask about reduced rates



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