

# Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Gazette

Driving the way toward energy independence

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## PRCC Holds Odyssey Event

by Rick Price

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities held its 2010 Odyssey Day event On October 15 at the Community College of Allegheny County West Hills Center (CCAC). Odyssey Day is a nationwide event promoted by the Alternative Fuels Training Consortium at WVU. It's held every two years to help educate the public about alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles.

Fleet managers, municipalities, corporations, and others gathered at CCAC to learn about the new technologies that contribute to solving our nation's growing energy security and environmental issues. More than 125 sites across the country joined together to further this mission

Rick Price, the Executive Director of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities (PRCC), said that western Pennsylvania participates in Odyssey Day because of the large number of vehicles in the region. There were over 20 alternative fueled vehicles on display, with representatives there to answer questions. "We had natural gas, propane, flexible fuel, hybrid, electric, and bio-diesel vehicles." A series of speakers at the event spoke about alternative transportation and technologies that would lower the use of oil-based fuels.

Price says anyone involved or interested in alternative fuel projects should attend the Clean Cities events such as Odyssey Day and other workshops and programs that PRCC has in planning. "What Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities is about is we're trying to reduce the amount of fuel we use here in the United States."

The October 15 event had over 150 attendees and was supported by Giant Eagle, 3 Rivers Clean Energy, CCAC, and the Claude W. Benedum Foundation. The guest speakers represented local companies with alternative fuel vehicles. Training sessions were also conducted on the Clean Cities Program, an Overview of Alternative Fuels, Bio-Diesel, and Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel. (See pictures from event on page 4)

## Chesapeake Energy Holds CNG School Bus Event

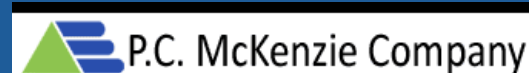
by Rick Price

Chesapeake Energy held a CNG School Bus event at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe on December 2, 2010. The event was sponsored by Chesapeake Energy, Equitable Gas and Range Resources. It was attended by school districts, local state representatives, and vendors.

Rick Price gave an overview of the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities and DOE Clean Cities Programs. David Ross from Equitable talked about their ongoing projects that included the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant for 2010 received from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The main focus of the day was a presentation on the business case for compressed natural gas given by Steve Yborra of the Natural Gas Vehicles for America. The presentation was about the background of CNG and CNG-powered vehicles. Steve laid out a strategy on how many vehicles to convert, how much fuel is needed, and how to choose a refueling station (quick fill, slow fill, etc.). He also showed how rapid the payback was for converting, based on a series of scenarios.

## Member Highlight: P. C. McKenzie Company Grows Alternative Fuel Business



P. C. McKenzie Company, located in Pittsburgh, PA, offers two alternative fueling solutions to help reverse the trend of oil dependency; Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) refueling stations and Electric Vehicle (EV) re-charging systems.

P. C. McKenzie is the Worldwide Master Distributor for Ingersoll Rand's entire Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) product line. These specialized compressor systems are used to refuel Natural Gas Powered Vehicles (NGVs) utilized in school districts, fleets, municipalities, utilities and governments. McKenzie completes all the final assembly for these units at their facility in Upper St. Clair, PA.

Ingersoll Rand is the only American Fortune 500 Company that manufactures and warrants compression packages specifically designed for NGV refueling. P. C. McKenzie Co. supports these units with aftermarket parts and IR authorized service.

In addition, P. C. McKenzie Company has identified Electric Vehicles (EV) as another viable alternative fuel solution. An estimated 1 Million charging stations will

need to be installed and operational by the year 2015 to support the electric vehicle market.

P. C. McKenzie Company is pleased to announce that we have reached an agreement with Optimization Technologies, manufacturer of the OpConnect Electric Vehicle Charging System, to sell and their products. The OpConnect EV Charging System meets all industry and safety standards, can serve up to four vehicles at a time, and support Level 1 (120 volt & Level 2 (240 volt) charging. These smart charging systems allow for time-of-day charging that can take advantage of cheaper energy costs during off-peak times as well as renewable energy sources.

OpConnect charging stations also feature the Wireless Valet™ that includes a smart phone application that directs drivers to the nearest available charging station. Those drivers also receive an optional e-mail, text message or Tweet alert when their charging is complete or interrupted.

For more information, contact:

Mark W. Good  
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## Companies Receive \$1.5 M in AFIG Funding

by Rick Price

Governor Rendell announced \$7.9 million through the Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant Program to spur innovation in the advanced energy economy, while also making it easier for consumers and businesses to use home-grown biofuels and rapidly expanding technologies such as hybrid and electric plug-in vehicles, as well as those powered by natural gas.

Local awards included:

- Giant Eagle Inc. - \$750,000 to purchase 29 compressed natural gas (CNG) and electric/plug-in vehicles, and to install 10 public electric vehicle charging stations—the first of their kind in Pennsylvania.

- Waste Management of PA, Inc. – \$700,000 – to build a CNG fueling station at its hauling facility in Washington, PA, which will also be available to other fleet operators. The company intends to use natural gas in its fleet of trash and recycle trucks.
- Western Pennsylvania Operating Engineers Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program — \$486,066 to convert heavy equipment construction fleets to accept locally produced biofuels and demonstrate the performance, cost-effectiveness, maintenance, training and research necessary to prove the concept's viability.

### *PRCC Enters New Training Partnership with CCAC*

PRCC is working with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and the Community College of Allegheny County – West Hills Center to offer alternative fuel-related training classes.

CCAC will be offering "Introduction to Hybrid Vehicles" this spring starting March 21, 2011.

This course will introduce students to hybrid electric vehicles. It will cover high voltage safety and safe working habits when performing service or maintenance to a hybrid vehicle. The different types of hybrid systems and their identification will be discussed.

The components of the hybrid system will be covered to include their operation and service. Differences in the air conditioning, braking and steering system will be covered. Scan tool data will be analyzed to identify the different modes of motor operation and fault diagnosis.

Emergency response information and guides will also be discussed.

For more information, contact:

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Community College of Allegheny  
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## National Scene: New Tax Bill Impacts Alt Fuel Tax

President Obama recently signed into law the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. The bill includes elements that strongly support deployment of alternative fueled vehicles and infrastructure.

### Fuels:

The following tax credits were extended through 2011:

- 45 cent/gallon tax credit for ethanol
- One dollar/gallon tax credit for biodiesel production and diesel fuel created from biomass
- 10 cent/gallon tax credit for agri-biodiesel producers
- 50 cent/gallon tax credit for natural gas and propane retroactive to January 1, 2010.

### Refueling stations:

The bill extends the 30% investment tax

credit through 2011 for infrastructure that supports alternative fuels like ethanol, hydrogen, biodiesel and natural gas up to a maximum for qualified equipment of \$30,000

and \$1,000 for non-business property (i.e., home refueling). It also allows for 100% expensing of the infrastructure costs in the first year for stations that are operational after September 8, 2010.

### Vehicle credit:

The income tax credit for the purchase of alternative fueled vehicles was not extended, but companies can expense 100% of the cost of new capital expenditures. Companies can therefore depreciate the full cost of the vehicles in one year rather than depreciating it over multiple years.



### *Rick Price Named New Executive Director/ Coordinator of PRCC*

Effective December 1, 2010, Rick Price took over the role of Executive Director/Coordinator for PRCC. Rick retired a little over three years ago from the Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), where he served as the Property Manager.

In this capacity, he had responsibility for motor vehicle management, which encompassed 73 vehicles, of which 52 vehicles were alternative fueled vehicles at the time of his retirement. He was also responsible for moving NETL to the forefront in alternative fuels by running over 22 thousand gallons of alternative fuels in 2007, installing a quick-fill compressed natural gas station, and incorporating use of E-85.

Rick served as a voluntary coordinator for PRCC about 7 years ago while he was at the Department of Energy. He was the President of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities before he took on this challenging new role.



## Photo Gallery



## Odyssey Day 2010

### President's Corner by Jan Lauer

Experts are telling us that \$5 gasoline is on the horizon as China, India, and other new markets clamor for oil. The national debt is over \$14 trillion and climbing at a rate of over \$4 billion per day, with \$1 billion per day leaving our shores to pay for imported oil. Our way of life is dependent on imported oil, which puts our economy and future in the hands of those outside our borders. At the same time, the region sits on what may be an unprecedented supply of natural gas. We have an abundance of power, as we export over 30% of the electricity that we generate to other regions. Important local manufacturers like Eaton are capturing new markets with new electric vehicle and smart grid solutions. Researchers at local universities like Carnegie Mellon are developing breakthrough technologies to help conserve transportation fuels and enable deployment of alternative fueled vehicles. There has never been a more important time nor the opportunity so great to utilize our domestic resources and technologies to move away from imported oil by moving to alternative fueled transportation. Major corporations in the region like Giant Eagle are leading the way, not only through their investment in alternative fueled vehicles and refueling stations, but in their civic leadership through sharing of information, hosting events, and volunteerism. Please come join these remarkable organizations at PRCC in growing this region to be a national leader in alternative fueled transportation.



*Natural gas powered trash truck*

## Upcoming Events

### Training Sessions

Please check our website for upcoming training sessions at [www.pgh-cleancities.org](http://www.pgh-cleancities.org)

### Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2011

January 5, 2011  
April 6, 2011  
July 6, 2011  
October 5, 2011

## Membership

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities is always looking for new members! Our job is to help you understand the value and importance of converting to alternative fuels. We can tell you about the incentives available to you for using alternative fuels. We can help guide you through making smart financial and environmental choices about purchasing an alternative fueled vehicle or using an alternative fuel. Become a member, and we can help you assess your fleet and objectives, as well as work with you to acquire funding assistance. If you would like to join and/or volunteer, please contact Rick Price at [coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org](mailto:coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org)

## Contribute Your News!

We want to showcase your news and successes, and we welcome ideas for articles. Please feel free to contact Rick Price, Executive Director/Coordinator, at 412-735-4114 or at [coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org](mailto:coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org)

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