

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Gazette

Driving the way toward energy independence

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Pgh. Auto Show Showcases Hybrids

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President's Corner

In February the PA General Assembly approved and signed into law HB 1950 (now Act 13 of 2012). The controversial Act provides for a shale gas impact fee and defines aspects of regulation of shale gas development. The Act also created a three-year Natural Gas Energy Development Program, funded with an allocation from the impact fee that is mentioned above. The Natural Gas Energy Development Program will make grant funds available on a competitive basis to Commonwealth or municipal authorities, local transportation organizations, nonprofits, the Turnpike Commission, state-owned or state-related universities, or private companies for the purpose of purchasing or converting more than five eligible vehicles to natural gas usage. At least half of each year's grant funding allocation must go to local transportation agencies.

The state should be congratulated for including natural gas vehicle incentives in Act 13. However, the program has come at a price, which is the elim-

ination of funding for the nationally recognized Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant program under the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This program provided funding for not only natural gas vehicles, but also supported electric, bio-fuel, and propane vehicles and refueling stations. It is often noted that the solution to meeting energy needs lies not in one solution, but in having a portfolio of sources of energy generation. Similarly, the solution to reducing dependence on imported petroleum fuels for transportation use does not rely on a single fuel type but in having available a variety of solutions that can potentially meet a company or organization's needs. Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities hopes that our elected officials when making program and funding decisions take into consideration that one size (or one fuel, in this case) does not fit all.

Member Highlight: Mike Lickert

Mike Lickert is Giant Eagle's Corporate Fleet Manager and the project leader for its Compressed Natural Gas Projects. In 2010, Giant Eagle's more than 200 fleet vehicles used over 113,000 gallons of bio-diesel blend.

In addition to serving on PRCC's board, Mike is also a member of the Greater Pittsburgh Foodbank's Board of Directors and the National Private Truck Council's Board of Governors. Mr. Lickert has 31 years of experience in supply chain management with Giant Eagle and earned a Certified Transportation Professional (CTP) Designation in 2006.



Mike has proven to be an invaluable asset for PRCC through his service on the PRCC Gaseous Fuels, Bio Fuels, and EV Committees and his leadership on several Giant Eagle alternative fuel projects. Mike serves as the lead on Giant Eagle's CNG Project and was instrumental in Giant Eagle's other alternative fuels areas such as electric charging stations, electric and plug-in electric vehicles, natural gas trucks and cars, hybrids, and bio-diesel vehicles.

Meet Lauren Eckels

Lauren Eckels is currently a public relations intern with Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities. A junior at the University of South Florida, Lauren is majoring in public relations with a minor in German. Lauren is working for PRCC this spring and is supported by a grant from the US DOE through Argonne National Laboratory. She is responsible for media outreach and maintains our website.



Food Bank Installs Bio-Diesel Station

On February 2, 2012, Clean Emission Fluids (CEF) and Steel City Refueling Systems held a training class on the operation and use of their new bio-diesel refueling station. The station which was part of a PA DEP AFIG which PRCC received. The prime partner was Fossil Free Fuels who help design and install the station utilizing Steel City Refueling equipment. The daylong event began with Oliver Bauer, President and CEO of CEF, talking about the implementation of a smart card reader system which allocates the correct amount of bio-diesel depending on the vehicle being fueled. Lisa Scales, Chief Operating Officer for the Food Bank,

instructed drivers and administrative personnel on fueling system operation and safety procedures.

Attendees were also trained on the inspection and licensing requirements for fueling stations. Karl Thomas from Steel City Fueling System instructed the group on the monthly inspection, documentation, and safety requirements needed for operating a fueling station. This is the first of two stations under this grant. The other station will be installed near the Waterfront Trail in the vicinity of 7th Street on the Southside of Pittsburgh.



New PA Gas Law Includes Support for NGVs

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett recently signed into law House Bill 1950 (now ACT 13), the Marcellus Shale Bill. The law provides a number of environmental protection requirements regarding the development of natural gas and imposes new fees on natural gas production. The bill also includes a new Natural Gas Development Program that will provide \$20 million in new funding to support the acquisition of dedicated and bi-fuel NGVs. The grants can be used to pay 50 percent of the incremental purchase cost or up to a maximum of \$25,000 per vehicle. The program targets fleet vehicles and ensures that in the initial years at least 50 percent of the overall funding goes to organizations that provide transportation services. Funding will be made available on a competitive basis and fleets must demonstrate: how many vehicles they

intend to acquire or convert to natural gas; the amount of natural gas they will use; and how they intend to fuel their vehicles. Fleets must intend to purchase or convert at least five NGVs. The law appears to favor projects that include building or using public access fueling stations. Funding for the program is as follows: FY 2012–2013 - \$10 million; FY 2013–2014 - \$7.5 million; and FY 2014–2015 - \$2.5 million. The program will be administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

HB1950 (Act 13) can be found at this web address:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2011&sessInd=o&billBody>

TheMarcellusShale.com Launches

TheMarcellusShale.com is an objective news and informational website intended to keep the public updated with current Marcellus Shale news, happenings, forum discussions, and events primarily in and around Southwestern Pennsylvania. TheMarcellusShale.com held the second in a continuing series of workshops at the Bentleyville Holiday Inn Express in February. At the workshop Al Camus of Zoresco spoke about CNG vehicles and conversions. Zoresco brought a Ford Pickup to demonstrate a BAF upfit. Additionally, Larry Kovach brought his CNG Limo for demonstration.

Tushar Savalia, Executive Director of TheMarcellusShale.com, states that he hopes that the TheMarcellusShale.com will grow as a place to come to learn and understand about developments

surrounding Marcellus Shale and natural gas drilling.

For more information about the Marcellus Shale.com 103, the third workshop in the series, check:

<http://www.zoresco.com/specials.asp?Cat=4>

To see Al Camus from Zoresco speak at event, check:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trV8rmidgt8&feature=player_embedded

Iron City Uniforms Utilizes CNG

Iron City Uniforms began using CNG bi-fuel vehicles in the early 1990's. To support their bi-fuel vehicles Iron City Uniforms constructed a CNG station at their facility on Frankstown Road. Iron City Uniforms was one of the first companies to work with PRCC in the alternative fuel market in Western PA. Now with increasing petroleum based fueling costs, Iron City Uniforms is looking to moving all of its 25 vehicles to compressed natural gas. PRCC and its stakeholders plan to work with Iron City Uniforms to help them achieve their goals.



Iron City Uniform Truck Refueling

Peoples Gas Moving to CNG

PRCC visited Peoples Natural Gas at its maintenance facility in Wilkinsburg, PA, to discuss what Peoples Gas sees as the future of compressed natural gas as a transportation fuel. Peoples is one of the few companies that still has operational CNG stations on its properties. PRCC has introduced private investors to the Peoples team to explore ways in which outside fleets or the general public might be able to utilize the existing stations. Outside use of the Peoples' stations would provide an opportunity to increase the number of stations in the area, upgrade the current facilities, and move CNG forward as a transportation fuel. Peoples, while currently utilizing only a few bi-fuel vehicles in its fleet, hopes to be able to purchase some new vehicles this year that can be converted to bi-fuel. Peoples once had over 300 vehicles running on CNG in the 2000-2004 timeframe. However, due to vehicles not being available at the time and the decision to discontinue use of CNG, the fleet diminished significantly in intervening years. Now that Peoples Gas has reorganized and is no longer part of Dominion Gas, the new leadership has decided to once again utilize CNG for their fleet vehicles.



Peoples Gas Wilkinsburg Pumps



Peoples Gas Wilkinsburg CNG Station

DOE Stakeholders Meet in Indy

On June 27-30, 2011, the US Department of Energy held its first stakeholder meeting at the JW Marriott Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. With almost 450 people in attendance including national vendors, Clean Cities coordinators, stakeholders, and DOE personnel, it was a great event with information available on a variety of alternative fuel vehicles. The highlight of the meeting was a visit to the Indianapolis Speedway. The day opened with alternative fueled vehicles driving from the hotel to the speedway with a police escort through downtown Indianapolis. Most of the stakeholders and other partners were driven by bus to the Speedway, but all the coordinators and DOE staff were allowed to drive a lap around the 2 ½ mile track in alternative fueled vehicles. The rest of the day was spent with introductions to new national partners, a speech by John Davis from Motor Week, touring vendors displays, and driving test vehicles.



Rick Price getting ready to race!



EV Alley

PRCC Visits Butler Transit Authority

A group of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities stakeholders visited Butler Transit Authority (BTA) to help move forward and provide funding on a CNG project. Butler Transit Authority saw an opportunity to provide a much cleaner and cheaper fuel for its operations. They have been in a new building for just over a year that they share with the Butler Area Rural Transit. John Paul, BTA's Executive Director, welcomed the group and provided a tour of the new BTA facility which is set for LEEDS Certification. The PRCC stakeholder group was also shown the planned location for a station and information on the plans to convert the buses and other vehicles to natural gas.



Butler Transit Authority Garage

Optimus Technologies Opens Facilities

Optimus Technologies has expanded and has opened its new facilities at 4814 Penn Ave in Pittsburgh. The company designs and manufactures fuel system retrofits that enable and optimize performance of cleaner burning fuels in traditional engines. Their Vector system is a bolt-on, modular diesel-to-biofuel conversion system built for commercial and industrial applications and is capable of operating on a variety of biofuels. Optimus is working on two PA Department of Environmental Protection's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants (AFIG) with Fossil Free Fuel and the Western Pennsylvania Operating Engineers Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program. The City of Pittsburgh, Global Links, Pittsburgh Food Bank and Giant Eagle are participants in the project, all having vehicles retrofit with the technology. Optimus is also working to retrofit construction equipment as part of the Western Pennsylvania Operating Engineers Joint Apprenticeship and Training program AFIG project.



PRCC at Central Penn Business Times

On February 6, 2012, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Region Clean Cities, through an invitation from Steve Yborra from NGV America, helped sponsor the annual Energy Symposium in Harrisburg with the Central Penn Business Times. More than 400 people and over 40 vendors attended event which had a focus on compressed natural gas vehicles.

The speakers included Mike Lickert from Giant Eagle. He commented that Giant Eagle put its first ten NGV tractor-trailers on the road last summer, and they are working out great. The Center County Transit Authority's General Manager Hugh Mose said that conversion to natural gas fuel was the single most popular initiative even undertaken by the

Authority. Mike Lickert visited the Center County operation while he was considering the move to natural gas.



Mike Lickert Speaks at Energy Symposium

PRCC and PSU EcoCar2 Partnership

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities and Penn State University's EcoCAR2 program are planning a partnership to conduct outreach events at Penn State branch campuses across Western PA. In February, PRCC Executive Director Rick Price visited Penn State EcoCAR2 members in State College, PA. They talked about ways that both programs can promote the use of alternative fuels and support the economy, while reducing GHGs and other pollutants. The team gave Mr. Price a tour of their facilities and explained their role in the Department of Energy-sponsored competition. Both organizations agreed to provide support at each other's events and also plan joint events to reach out to key stakeholders. This partnership will be for at least three years (which is the term of the current EcoCAR2 program). "We are excited to start this partnership, and hope that it will continue far beyond the current three years," said Rick Price.

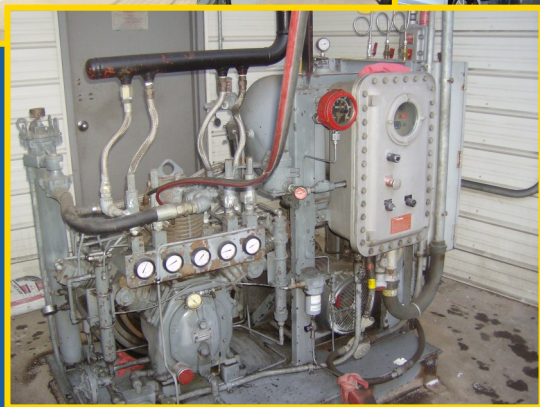
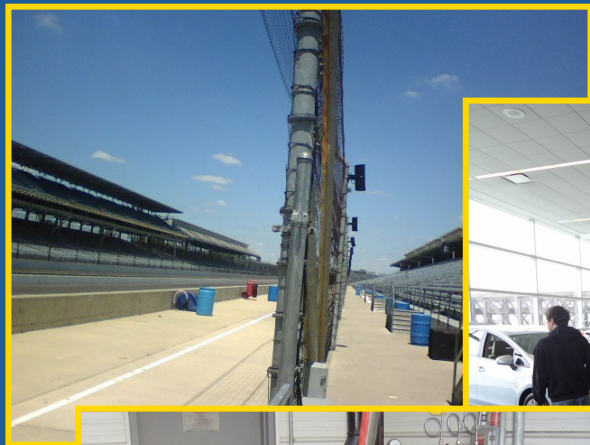
This outreach partnership will benefit both organizations. Possible future Penn State main campus students will learn about the EcoCAR2 program and its goals, while also learning about all the alternative fuels and their technology benefits. We hope that it motivates them to get involved with PRCC in the movement to green Western PA!



EcoCar2 Staff with Last Year's Vehicle



Eco Car2 Engine for this Competition



Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2012

April 4, 2012

July 3, 2012

October 3, 2012

Stakeholder Meeting

April 20, 2012

Odyssey Day

October 19, 2012

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

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



Rick Price
Executive Director/Coordinator

1436 Royal Park Blvd.

South Park, PA 15129

(412) 735-4114

coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org

www.pgh-cleancities.org

Twitter: [pghcleancities](https://twitter.com/pghcleancities)