

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Gazette

Driving the way toward energy independence

Issue 01 Volume 03 May 2011

*Carnegie Mellon University
Charge Car*



this issue

Member Highlight P.2
Propane Expo P.3
Charge Car Open House P.4
Chevy Volt Owner? P.5

PRCC and CCAC West Hills Center Sign MOA

On April 1, 2011 the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities and the Community College of Allegheny County West Hills Center signed a Memorandum of Agreement to have CCAC join the National Alternative Fuels Training Center (NAFTC). The agreement is to cooperate in the advancement of training opportunities for alternative fuels technologies and methodologies.

This is the first training facility of its kind in Pennsylvania. "This is a critical first step toward moving alternative fuel technologies forward in Western Pennsylvania," states Rick Price, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities.

The National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) is a pioneer and a national leader in promoting programs and activities that will lead to energy independence and the greater use of cleaner transportation in the United States. The NAFTC is the only nationwide alternative fuel vehicle and advanced technology vehicle training organization in the United States. Its mission is to provide the training infrastructure for implementing widespread use of alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles, and advanced technology vehicles, in an effort to increase our nation's energy security and improve our air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our transportation system.

As part of this MOA CCAC will join the NAFTC and gain access to over \$6M-\$7M of training materials developed by NAFTC to use toward their training curriculum. Classes are to start this fall. For more information check the CCAC website.



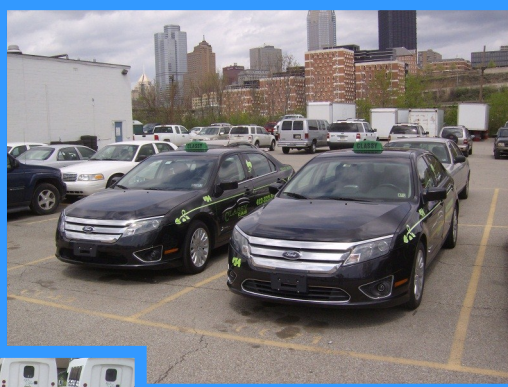
Representatives from CCAC West Hills, NAFTC, and PRCC sign the Memorandum of Agreement while PRCC board members look on.



Member Highlight: Star Transportation Group



Bob DeLucia



Someone has to take the lead in not only talking the talk, but walking the walk. Robert DeLucia does that, and plans to do more. Bob DeLucia has worked for and owned successful transportation companies in western Pennsylvania for more than 25 years. He started his taxicab business in 1982, then Cranberry taxi in 1989. He founded Classy Cab Company in early 2005 because he believed that the taxi cabs underserved the Pittsburgh market, and that the region needed up-scale and comfortable service. Now he is launching Veterans Cab, a way for veterans to own their own cabs, and hopes to start with 25 drivers. Bob, a vet himself, wants to provide even more veterans with a job through Veterans Cab, even beyond those he has hired as Star Transportation Group. His companies have contracts with Access and other organizations and his Classy cabs provide a little more luxury than the standard cabs because the vehicles are stretched.

Bob is also a believer in alternative fuels. Bob's company has worked with Alliance AutoGas to convert some of the cabs and Access vans to run on propane. Bob not only has propane vans but they are bi-fuel vehicles that can run on gas or propane, and he even has a propane station at his Southside location.

Bob also has hybrid cabs, and now he is looking at compressed natural gas vehicles and possibly a CNG station that would also be available to the public. Wouldn't it be great to have a station that would have CNG, propane, bio-fuels and even electric refueling capability? Bob said it is possible and maybe he will do it someday. "We need more people like Bob to help this nation reduce dependency on foreign oil," said Rick Price, Executive Director of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities. For more information about the Star Transportation Group and Bob's alternative fueled vehicles call 412-904-3786.

Propane Expo Held At Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Western Region Office

Not many people know that the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has been using propane and other alternative fuels for years. But yes, Chris David stated that not only does the Turnpike Commission use propane, but they also use bio-diesel and ethanol (E-85) at their maintenance facilities along the turnpike. On April 19, 2011, a



Propane Expo was presented by Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities with over 30 people attending to listen to the presenters and the users of propane.

The presenters included Rick Price, talking about the Clean Cities program and available grant funding.



Robert Little of Roush Clean Tech presented on their products and stated that Roush is an approved up-fitter for the Ford propane line of vehicles. Virginia Watson talked about Ferrell Gas as a supplier of propane and stations and their close working relationship with Roush. She also brought the Ferrell Gas Ford van for the ride-and-drive – attendees got a chance to drive it and claimed it has all the power of a gasoline version!

John Schaefer from Blue Bird of Pittsburgh presented Blue Bird's line of mini-buses. He also brought the gasoline version to show the attendees. Bob DeLucia

from Classy Cab talked about his experiences with the conversion of his fleet to propane bi-fuel. Rodney Johnson from Alliance Auto Gas talked about their conversion package and gas service and brought a converted passenger car for display. Lastly, Dean Cellone from Cellone's Bakery not only brought a bread truck (with Cellone's bread samples aboard!), he brought his mechanic and they talked about how they have been using propane in their fleet since 1980.



“With the tax incentives for propane, the infrastructure and conversion grant funds that are available, and the competitive pricing with compressed natural gas, propane represents another opportunity for fleets to switch,” stated Rick Price, Executive Director of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities.

After a lunch that was provided by PRCC, the attendees were able to go outside to view the five propane powered vehicles that were on display and take a ride in some of the vehicles.



Carnegie Mellon University Holds Open House for Charge Car Event



Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities held its second Electric Vehicle Outreach event on March 25, 2011, at Carnegie Mellon University's Hamburg Hall. The event was held to coincide with the CMU's Electric Charge Car Open House. For the second week in a row there were over 25 people in attendance for an electric vehicle event.

The event began with an overview of the CREATE Lab and the CMU Charge Car Project by Illah Nourbakhsh. He was followed by Ben Brown, talking about the philosophy and details of the Charge Car Project, where the team is designing custom quick installation kits to replace the gasoline drive train in Honda Civics with an electric motor and battery pack. Greg Podnar finished off the CMU presentation by talking about the recently received PA Department of Environmental Protection Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant to install charging stations at the CMU Electric Car Garage on Forbes Avenue.

Carleen Yrakosky of Eaton talked about their charging stations and Sue Koza of P.C. McKenzie Corp (OpConnect vendor) presented their unit which was later demonstrated at the Electric Car Garage after the meeting.

George Totolos was in attendance with his Chevy Volt. After the Clean Cities meeting the attendees went across the street to the Electric Car Garage. Congressman Mike Doyle and City Councilman Bill Peduto attended the Charge Car Open House. The Congressman took the opportunity to drive the Chevy Volt.

Congressman Doyle looking at the Charge Car battery pack



Learning about the OpConnect EV charging system



Chevy Volt Owner? Yes, I AM!



To listen to George Totolos, the first person in western Pennsylvania to own a Chevy Volt, speak about the car, you would think he works for General Motors. George, an engineer himself, just wanted to try to do his part in moving the country away from petroleum based fuels. He went all the way to Long Island, NY, to get his Chevy Volt. Since an article about him appeared in the *Post Gazette*, George has become a spokesperson at Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities events. He said that he is glad to help spread the word about electric vehicles by bringing his car to events and speaking about his experiences with it.

It started with an event held at Eaton's Warrendale facility. George only had the vehicle for three weeks, but he talked

about how much power it had and how pleased he was with its features. Presently he only charges it at his home with a standard plug from an outlet at home. Engineers at Eaton stated that it only cost about \$1.40 to charge the vehicle to a full charge, and George noted that he probably has an increase of about \$30.00 to \$40.00 a month in his electric bill.

George also brought his Volt to the Carnegie Mellon Electric Charge Car Garage Open House, and his car will be on display at the Western PA Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) Annual Equipment and Vendor Show in June.

George has agreed to continue to help PRCC and the region move into the electric vehicle era and with as many as 27 level 2 charging stations going in this year and with the available of the Volt in the Pittsburgh area in the third quarter, we are well on our way to electric vehicles being part of our transportation portfolio.



President's Corner by Jan Lauer

In April the Environmental Protection Agency issued much awaited rules that help to open the door to vehicles conversions to alternative fuels. These rules require a similar certification process for new vehicles as has been in place, but there is now an allowance for older vehicles that are retrofitted to be deemed in compliance through simple emissions testing. Although this is a great step forward, we feel that more can be done. An important goal of the Clean Air Act from which these RPA rules are derived, is to ensure that air quality standards are met. By further restructuring of the certification requirements, more dual-fueled vehicles could be deployed much faster, operating cleaner than gasoline and diesel fueled vehicles, and contributing toward cleaner air.

Dual fuel retrofit packages provide a critical bridge between traditionally fueled and dedicated alternative fueled vehicles. A major barrier to acceptance of alternative fueled vehicles is range anxiety—a legitimate concern about an inability to access a fueling station when needed, resulting in someone being stranded. Dual-fueled vehicles help to eliminate this concern, as a traditional fuel is always on board. Pennsylvania has an opportunity to step up and embrace dual-fueled vehicles as other states like Utah and Colorado have—frontrunners in alternative fueled vehicle deployment. We need to adopt and enact policies that encourage dual fuel vehicle retrofits to both help clean the air and allow for accelerated adoption of alternative fueled vehicles.

Question of the Month: Conversion Equipment Regulations

What notable changes to federal alternative fuel conversion regulations resulted from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final rulemaking?

Answer: On March 29, 2011, EPA announced a simplified process by which alternative fuel conversion systems manufacturers may demonstrate compliance with emissions requirements and be exempt from potential tampering charges. Previous regulations required all vehicle and engine conversion systems to be covered by a Certificate of Conformity in order to be exempt from federal tampering prohibitions. The amendments are based primarily on EPA's determination that it is appropriate to treat conversions differently based on the age of the vehicle or engine being converted. All conversion manufacturers seeking an exemption must demonstrate compliance, but the demonstration requirements differ among categories. A summary of each age-based category and the associated compliance requirements is as follows:

New and Relatively New Vehicles and Engines: Includes vehicles/engines less than about two years old. Notification and demonstration requirements are very similar to previous practice, including a certification application that includes testing and on-board diagnostics (OBD) requirements. The demonstration requirement for new vehicles/engines is certification. Once certified, annual recertification is no longer required to maintain the tampering exemption.

Intermediate Age Vehicles and Engines: Includes vehicles/engines that are no longer "new and relatively new" but still fall within EPA's definition of full useful life. Notification and demonstration requirements include testing and data submission to show that the converted vehicle or engine meets applicable emission standards and an OBD scan tool report.

The rule has been published in the *Federal Register* and is now in effect, as of April 8, 2011.

This ruling helps to open the door to dual fuel conversions for older vehicles and could help to create a new regional industry in vehicle conversions.

Eaton Hosts Electric Vehicle Charging Demonstration



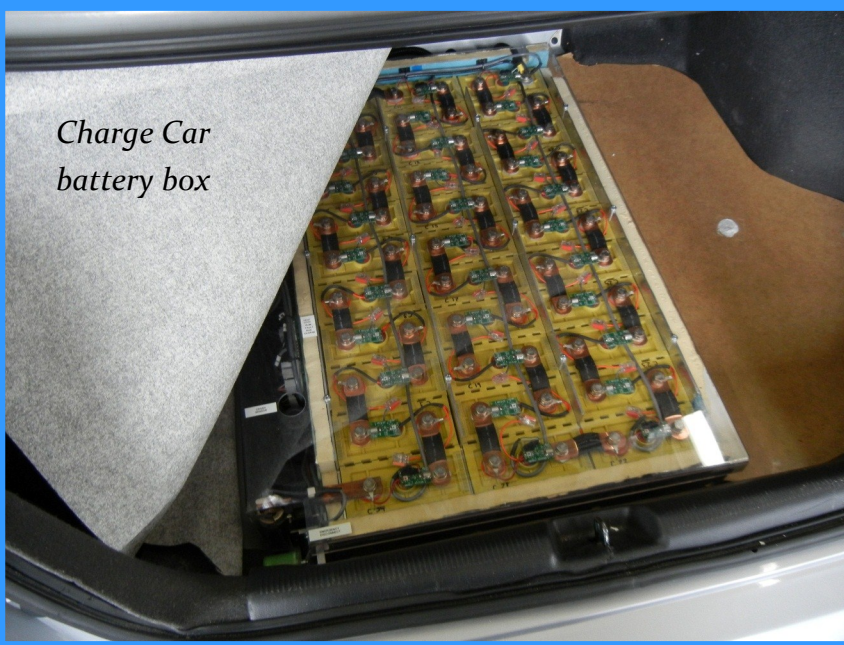
On March 17, 2011, Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities held its first Electric Vehicle (EV) outreach event in the Pittsburgh area. The event was held at Eaton Corporation's Warrendale Facility. The event was attended by over 25 people interested in electric vehicle technologies.



After the presentations, attendees went outside to the charging station area where Eaton has a level 2 and level 3 charging unit installed. The units were demonstrated and the level 2 unit was hooked up to one of the two Chevy Volts on hand.



Charge Car
battery box



Vog

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2011

July 6, 2011

October 5, 2011

Stakeholder Meetings

June 2, 2011, Western PA Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) Annual Equipment and Vendor Show, Franklin Parks Borough, Blueberry Hill Park on Nicholson Rd.

Training Opportunities

Mark your calendar - hybrid vehicle training this fall at the West Hills Center, Community College of Allegheny County

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)

PITTSBURGH REGION
CLEAN CITIES