

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Gazette

Driving the way toward energy independence

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Green Fleet Initiative Receives EPA Grant

A western Pennsylvania partnership, the Green Fleet Initiative of Western Pennsylvania, was awarded a grant of \$888,750 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deploy emerging technologies to reduce diesel emissions in the region.

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Program (DERA) grant awarded to the Green Fleet Initiative was created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and provides grants and loans for promoting diesel emission reductions.

Recognizing the transportation industry and corresponding fleets to be a major contributor to

both greenhouse gas emissions and air quality issues, the Green Fleet Initiative partners will achieve reductions in western Pennsylvania diesel emissions by replacing 17 heavy- and medium-duty highway diesel vehicles with compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles. In addition, one non-road diesel yard tractor will be replaced with a CNG yard tractor. The Green Fleet Initiative's 18 vehicle replacement program will serve as a crucial step in increasing the number of vehicles using cleaner burning compressed natural gas as a transportation fuel in western Pennsylvania, helping to reduce air pollution in the region.

(continued on page 3)

President's Corner

This year the region has been particularly successful in winning both state and federal grants to support alternative fuel vehicle deployment with a federal Clean Diesel award of nearly \$900,000, two Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant awards to support the 376 Energy Corridor development for electric vehicles, funding for alternative fueled taxis and buses, a Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority award to replace four diesel refuse trucks with four new natural gas-powered vehicles., and funding for a new public natural gas refueling station, among other wins – totaling nearly \$4 million!

PRCC would like to congratulate those who received the awards. We also applaud you for your

leadership. Until we can reach a critical number of alternative fueled vehicles, we as a region can't support refueling stations, and unless the refueling stations are in place, fleet owners are reluctant to make the investment in vehicles. The only way the region can reach the tipping point where most people feel confident in making an alternative fueled vehicle purchase and investors feel confident that the market demand is there for their fuel, is for true leaders like those who received these awards to step forward and make these sorts of investments.

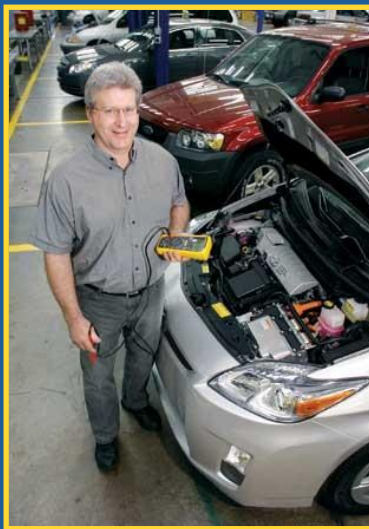
We are looking forward to reporting on many more wins in the future. Again, congratulations to all.

Member Highlight: Bob Koch

Bob Koch is an Automotive Instructor at the Community College of Allegheny County – West Hills Center. He was very instrumental in bringing the first alternative fueled vehicle training center to Pennsylvania. CCAC's West Hills campus, in collaboration with Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities, has become a member of the National Alternative Fuel Training Consortium (NAFTC). The NAFTC has fifty training centers around the country.

According to data from the National Automobile Dealers Association, about four percent of cars sold during the past three years are hybrids, accounting for almost one million vehicles. In order to support this market growth,

CCAC held its first "Introduction to Hybrid" class this past September and October. "With more hybrids coming out on the market, the college and automotive department saw the need to train technicians," stated Bob.



Bob is working diligently on more alternative fueled vehicle classes and with local companies like Giant Eagle, EQT, Zoresco, and others who are already utilizing alternative fueled vehicles. Bob said that without the help of Dr. Donna Imhoff, President of the CCAC West Hills Center and North Campus, along with Gretchen Mullins-Sawicki, CCAC's Dean of Academic Affairs, none of this would have been possible.

Community College of Allegheny County's West Hills Center will offer the Hybrid Course again on Monday and Wednesday evenings starting on March 12, 2012. For additional information please contact Bob Koch at 412-788-7378.

PRCC Awarded Grant by EPA (cont.)

PRCC partnered with Equitable Gas Company, headquartered in Pittsburgh, FYDA Freightliner in Canonsburg, Giant Eagle, headquartered in O'Hara Township, and Vogel Disposal, headquartered in Mars, PA, to submit the grant proposal to the EPA.

With the help of the grant, Vogel Disposal will purchase eight CNG refuse trucks, Equitable Gas will purchase seven utility vehicles, FYDA Freightliner will purchase two delivery trucks, and Giant Eagle will purchase one non-road tractor. The companies will then retire the diesel vehicles the new CNG vehicles will replace.

PRCC is thrilled to receive this nationally competitive grant from the EPA on behalf of our partnership," said Rick Price, Executive Director, of PRCC. "With the expertise and leadership of Equitable Gas Company and the vision of Vogel Disposal, Giant Eagle, and FYDA Freightliner this unique partnership came together to improve air quality here in western Pennsylvania. Our hope is this project can be a model for similar regional efforts in the future."

PRCC & the Ohio Watershed Celebration

The Ohio Watershed held its 10th Annual Celebration on September 22nd. Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities helped to bring to the event a collection of alternative fueled vehicles and presented information to nearly 800 attendees. Murry and Cindy Gerber brought their red, white and blue CNG Hummer, handed out thumb drives with information about why CNG is a great transportation fuel, and promoted their website Go Natural Gas. Mike Lickert from Giant Eagle brought a CNG Honda Civic to show folks one of the vehicles that is readily available at dealerships now. Bob DeLuca brought a propane taxi from his newly formed Veteran's Taxi, a newly formed owner-operator taxi service, as well as one of his Air Star Transportation's Access Bus that also runs on Propane. Finally, Crivelli Chevrolet provided a Chevy Volt. PRCC and People's Natural Gas had a booth that presented information on the programs and use of alternative fuels. PA DEP, Penn State Beaver, and the PA Boat Commission also made presentations.



DEP Awards Nearly \$4.4 Million in AFIG Funds

The PA Department of Environmental Protection has announced more than \$4.4 million in Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants to 12 projects across the state to help develop the state's natural gas and electric vehicle infrastructure and achieve emissions reductions equivalent to taking 10,000 cars off the road.

"These projects are terrific for the state's economy and the environment," DEP Secretary Mike Krancner said. "We have an available, abundant, domestic, economical and clean-burning source of energy under our feet, and these projects put those resources to good use."

Western Pennsylvania projects are listed below. Congratulations to all!

Cranberry Taxi Inc. / Veterans Taxi will receive \$269,000 to purchase and deploy 25 new compressed natural gas taxis. The taxis will be based out of Pittsburgh and will provide service throughout Allegheny and Butler counties. Annually, this project is expected to save \$78,039 in fuel costs.

Pittsburgh Regional Clean Cities will receive \$238,467 for the Energy Corridor 376 project that will establish 45 electric vehicle charging stations along Interstate 376 and surrounding areas. Energy Corridor 376 is a partnership of 19 regional public and private entities working to expand electric vehicle infrastructure in the region. Adding to the existing nine charging stations, this project sets the stage for subsequent expansion and electric vehicle adoption.

Talon Logistics Inc. will receive \$500,000 to replace 20 diesel-fueled delivery trucks with 20 trucks fueled by compressed natural gas. This will be the first use of heavy-duty trucks in Pennsylvania that feature the Cummins Westport ISL G 11.9-liter 400 HP engine. The project also includes an educational outreach and awareness campaign, discussing how alternative fuels help create jobs, stimulate

Statewide

350 Green LLC will receive \$450,000 for the development of the state's electric vehicle infrastructure under the AFIG 2011 program. This project will include the construction of approximately 20 Level III fast-charging stations and 72 Level II charging stations. Level III charging stations provide 480 volts of direct current, allowing an electric car to charge in about a half hour. Level II charging stations provide 240 volts of alternating current, allowing an electric car to charge in about four hours. The locations of the charging stations are being negotiated.

local economic development, reduce harmful emissions and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) will receive \$500,000 to replace 20 diesel-fueled shuttle buses with 20 shuttle buses powered by compressed natural gas. The project will also provide encouragement for additional compressed natural gas fuel adoption and use by UPMC and other organizations throughout the region; provide criteria emissions reductions and significant fuel cost savings; and create jobs.

Butler Transit Authority will receive \$1 million to assist in the construction of Butler County's first public access compressed natural gas fueling station at the Butler Transit Authority's new transit center. The transit authority has committed to purchasing four new natural gas-powered 45-foot coach buses and six 30-foot buses. The transit authority is also working with Butler Area Rural Transit to replace 20 shuttle buses with natural gas-powered versions. The project is expected to displace 250,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually.



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FYDA Energy Solutions Joins Alliance AutoGas

FYDA Energy Solutions has expanded its alternative fuel service offerings to include propane autogas vehicle conversions, joining the Alliance AutoGas network as the newest certified conversion center. The green technology arm of nationally recognized truck dealership FYDA Freightliner, FYDA Energy Solutions will work with a variety of fleet vehicles in the Northeast—from police cruisers to taxi cabs to cargo vans—to help them run on clean, affordable, American-made autogas.

FYDA Energy Solutions specializes in retrofitting vehicles to run on alternative fuels, as well as providing maintenance support for fleets. The company was formed with the goal of reducing our nation's dependence on foreign oil, promoting clean air and ultimately supporting the fleet industry with affordable clean fuel options.

“FYDA Energy Solutions recognizes the importance of reducing costs for fleet owners and managers, while also positively impacting national energy security and the environment,” said FYDA Energy Solutions Director of Business Development, Tim Hooker. “As a new partner in the Alliance AutoGas complete program, we're proud to be part of an innovative solution for cleaner energy that offers great savings for fleets.”

The FYDA Energy autogas vehicle conversions utilize the bi-fuel Prins VSI system from Alliance AutoGas founding partner, American Alternative Fuel. Autogas vehicles take as long to refuel as gasoline vehicles and, because autogas is cleaner-burning than gasoline, vehicles need less maintenance and have an extended engine life.

“FYDA Energy Solutions is a leading provider of alternative fuel technologies for the fleet industry, and they will be a vital part of the Alliance mission to run more American fleets on environmentally friendly, affordable autogas,” says Stuart Weidie, president of Alliance AutoGas and founder of industry coalition, Autogas for America. “Saving money on fuel without losing power or range makes autogas a smart choice for fleets—and because it's domestically produced, it's also a smart choice for enhancing U.S. energy security.”

Autogas is 90 percent made in America, so fleets running on this clean fuel are doing their part to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Autogas is \$1 less per gallon than gasoline, and the cost of autogas fueling infrastructure and conversions is significantly more affordable compared to other alternative fuels.



September Stakeholder Meeting



The bi-annual Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Stakeholder meeting was held at the Community College of Allegheny County West Hills Center on September 16. The meeting began with an update on the status of the PRCC Program Committees.

The Bio-Fuels Committee is working on installing 4 bio-blending stations. At the moment there is no scheduled completion date, but there will be stations located at the Food Bank in Duquesne, near the river trail on South Side around 7th street, the City of Pittsburgh's Divisional sites, and in Braddock near the Fossil Free Fuel's building. These installations are supported by two PA DEP AFIG Grants. The second grant also included funds to up fit vehicles with Optimus Technology's new bi-diesel equipment.

Vice President Mack Godfrey, Ni-Source/Columbia, reported on the status of the Gaseous Fuels Committee's projects and talked about the two new public CNG stations that have been opened by Giant Eagle and EQT. He also stated that he was working very aggressively with other private investors in identifying other natural gas refueling sites. Mack stated that in the next year or so, we could conceivably see more than twenty CNG stations opening in Western Pennsylvania.

PRCC President Jan Lauer discussed the status of the Electric Vehicle Committee and how PRCC has a grant to install nine Level II EV charging stations, and that two other PRCC stakeholders, CMU and Giant Eagle, have received grants for an additional 18 stations. She also discussed the PRCC proposal

to PA DEP AFIG for an additional 45 EV charging stations.

The Stakeholder Meeting included three speakers presenting on various energy related topics of interest to stakeholders. Rachael Filippini, from the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP), explained the Pennsylvania's Anti Idling Law.

The second presentation was done by P.C. McKenzie Co. on "right sizing" filling stations. Station sizing always depends on pump demand: the quantity needed and how quickly vehicles need refueled. The presentation also included an explanation of station operation and the major components of stations.

The last speaker was Al Ebron from the National Alternative Fuel Training Consortium (NAFTC), the only alternative fuels national training organization. The CCAC West Hills Center is now a member of the NAFTC through sponsorship by PRCC. Al presented on the importance of First Responder Training, as police, fire, and EMTs now potentially face many new types of alternative fueled vehicles that could be involved in accidents, fires, or other emergency situations. Bob Koch from CCAC also stated that CCAC began teaching a Hybrid Training class on September 7th and that there will be another class in the spring semester. CCAC plans to provide courses for first responders and training programs on other alternative fuels in the near future.

Q&A with Joe Sherrick from PA DEP

PA Clean Vehicle (PCV) Program Requirements for AFVs

What is the registration, emissions and certification process for vehicles that are new (under 7,500 miles) and being converted as dedicated alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs)?

- **Titling and Registration:** Vehicles converted to AFVs require a Modified Vehicle Title from PennDOT and are subject to an enhanced vehicle safety inspection.
- **Emissions Testing:** Dedicated AFVs do not require emissions testing.
- **Certification Process:** All AFV conversion systems must be either EPA or CARB certified or approved.

What is the registration, emissions and certification process for older dedicated AFV conversions (pre-2008 models or 7,500+ miles)?

- **Titling and Registration:** Same procedure for new and older vehicles.
- **Emissions Testing:** Same procedure for new and older vehicles.
- **Certification Process:** Same procedure for new and older vehicle conversions.

Does a conversion kit need to be either EPA or CARB certified?

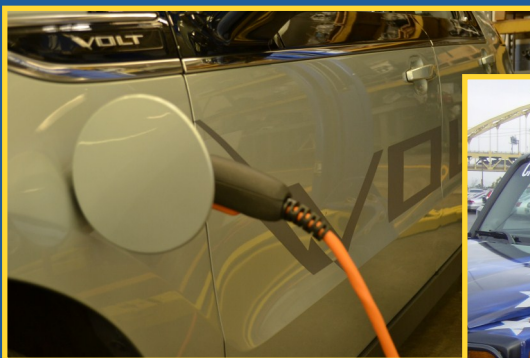
- Yes. Conversion systems must either be EPA or CARB certified/approved.

What is the registration, emissions and certification process for AFV conversions with dual fuel capability?

- **Titling and Registration:** Dual fuel vehicles will be categorized by PennDOT as either a gasoline or diesel vehicle (rare) and will be titled as such.
- **Emissions Testing:** Gasoline vehicle emissions testing applies, where applicable (25 counties).
- **Certification Process:** Same procedure for dedicated AFV conversions (conversion systems must be EPA certified or approved)

What is the registration, emissions and certification process for medium and heavy-duty AFV conversions?

- **Titling and Registration:** Same procedure as for light duty AFV conversions.
- **Emissions Testing:** Only applies to gasoline vehicles (includes dual-fuel) with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of ≤9,000 pounds.
- **Certification Process:** For heavier gasoline-to-AFV conversions with a GVWR above 8,500 pounds and for all diesel-to-AFV conversions with a GVWR between 8,500 to 14,000 pounds, EPA certified or approved conversion systems can be used.



IdleAir Electrifies Truck Stops

IdleAir, which was recently purchased by Convoy Solutions, has started to reopen some of the IdleAir Truck Stop Electrification sites. One of these sites was reopened in Claysville, PA (just west of Washington, PA) at the Petro Stopping Center #83 on I-70 Exit #6. Shawn Farr from IdleAir stated that IdleAir has been talking with drivers about using the TSE instead of letting truck just idle. He said that a normal truck uses one to one and a half gallons of diesel an hour to idle at a current price of about \$4.00 a gallon. IdleAir is offering a rate of \$1.99 an hour to drive up to one of their stations that provide filtered & UV-treated heat and air, interior and exterior 120V outlets, TV, and internet. Shawn stated that the prices are frozen for the rest of 2011 and they are working with many trucking firms on reducing the cost. IdleAir has almost 300 firms signed up to use TSE throughout the US. IdleAir has other TSE units in Breezewood, PA and Meyerstown, PA.



The Chevy Volt: It's Electrifying

By Carley Lang

At the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Odyssey Day event on October 7, I had the opportunity to ride in the Chevy Volt and it was... well, electrifying! After taking trips around CCAC West Hills Center's campus all day long, the most frequent comment was about how quiet the vehicle was. In fact, some drivers didn't even realize they had turned the car on!

The Volt is an electric vehicle with two energy sources: an electric battery and a fuel tank. The battery allows you to travel approximately 35 miles

on pure electricity. After that, a gasoline-powered generator turns on to produce additional electricity and give you a total range of 375 miles with a full tank of gas.

It's silent electric power, sleek interior, and aerodynamic design make the Volt a vehicle worth test driving. Think it's too expensive for your budget? With a \$7,500 federal tax credit and a \$3,500 state tax credit, the Volt is within reach for many consumers. Visit the Chevy Volt's website to learn more today!



Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2012

January 4, 2012

April 4, 2012

July 3, 2012

October 3, 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)