

GAZETTE

DRIVING THE WAY TOWARD
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ODYSSEY DAY

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On Friday, October 7th from 9 am to 2:30 pm Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities (PRCC) presents its biggest event of the year: Odyssey Day at the Community College of Allegheny County' (CCAC)'s West Hills Campus!

This year the celebration will be extra special as we mark our twentieth year hosting the event.



Odyssey Day is uniquely designed to educate the public about cleaner transportation technologies using a variety of traditional learning and interactive formats. First held in 2002, the program was coordinated by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) headquartered at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown, West Virginia, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Today, PRCC continues the tradition with a fun filled and educational day promoting the use of alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies.

Every year Odyssey Day has something special to offer!

This year, to mark our milestone of 20 years, we've invited Trina Wafle, Assistant Director of the WVU Energy Institute and Interim Director for NAFTC to offer a keynote speech. Additional guests and panelists will include: Even Walters, President of CCAC North/West; Colton Brown, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Shane Rice, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

(PennDOT); Grant Ervin, S&B USA Construction; Barry Carr, ABM; Ryan Milko, Peoples Gas; and others. Panel sessions will focus on electric vehicles (EVs), alternative fuels, and funding opportunities.

Odyssey Day's action-packed agenda annually includes alternative fueled vehicle displays, ride-n-drive opportunities, guest speakers, featured workshops, demos and more! On-site for the 2022 season will be an exciting car show featuring an electric rapid transit bus, Allegheny County's Mach-E, a propane powered ice cream truck from Schwann's and much more! There will also be opportunities to learn more about electric vehicle service equipment (EVSE) like the mobile GOAT from Pioneer Power Mobility Solutions.

"Several of our coalition members have been with PRCC since the very start of Odyssey Day," remarked PRCC Executive Director, Rick Price. "Their contributions have been significant over the years in keeping the event going and we want to acknowledge and honor that history."

Odyssey Day will be held at the CCAC-West Hills Campus, 1000 McKee Road, Oakdale, PA 15071. If you haven't already done so, we invite you to please [register to attend](#) this year's festivities. For more information, please contact Rick Price at (412) 735-4114.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRCC STAFF MEMBERS:



Kristen Sabol, Program Assistant

Kristen came onboard with PRCC in June 2022 to offer program, outreach and communications support. She brings over 15 years of experience in marketing communications and worked most recently with the Eaton Corporation and the National Science Foundation's Engineering Resource Centers Network.



Alecsandra Steele, Program Assistant

Alex also joined the Clean Cities team in June 2022 to assist with marketing and social media outreach efforts. Since 2018, she has been working in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, specifically in marketing, sales, and public relations.



Lydia Aceto, Intern

Lydia became the PRCC Intern this September, after graduating from Chatham University's Masters of Sustainability Program. Her previous work includes internal policy writing for the City of Duquesne and data collection and mapping for Tri-COG Land Bank and the Fracktracker Alliance.

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMIN APPROVES FIRST 35 STATE PLANS TO BUILD OUT EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS 53,000 MILES OF HIGHWAYS

The Biden-Harris Administration announced more than two-thirds of Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Deployment Plans from states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have been approved ahead of schedule under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program, established and funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. With this early approval, these states can now unlock more than \$900 million in NEVI formula funding from FY22 and FY23 to help build EV chargers across

approximately 53,000 miles of highway across the country. Faster adoption of electric vehicles is a critical part of the nation's climate goals as transportation currently accounts for more than a quarter of all emissions. Approved Plans are available on the FHWA website and funding tables for the full five years of the NEVI Formula program can be viewed here.

[Continue reading the full story on the CleanTechnica website.](#)

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK EVENT OCT. 1



National Drive Electric Week is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. This year, PRCC will hold a Ride-N-Drive event on October 1, from 10 am - 2 pm, at the CCAC-West Hills Campus, 1000 McKee Rd, Oakdale, PA 15071 to mark the occasion. Come out to learn more, visit the car show, and take a test-drive! Please [register for the event online.](#)

FIRST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES INFRASTRUCTURE HELD:

On Wednesday, September 14th PennDOT hosted its first Community Engagement Session on the Pennsylvania National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Plan at the Manchester Citizen Corp. office in Pittsburgh. The evening event was co-sponsored by Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities (PRCC) and Duquesne Light.



About 30 people attended the live discussion which was designed to introduce Pennsylvania citizens and drivers to electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure basics. A goal for the evening was to share information about how the State's NEVI funding will be directed over the coming years.

Speakers at the events included: LaShawn Fulton Burk, Manchester Citizens Group; Dan Szekeres, Michael Baker International; Natasha Fackler, PennDOT; Sarah Olexsak, Duquesne Light; and Rick Price, PRCC.

Topics covered spanned an introduction to EV types, benefits, and costs; an overview of public charging stations, locations, design and cost considerations; data on EV registrations in Pennsylvania; maps detailing alternative fuel corridors across the State; and an overview of available funding sources, rebate programs, and other incentives. The

session included interactive elements that allowed participants to build and test their understanding of new terms and concepts related to the emerging field.

The full event was livestreamed on Facebook. Both in-person and virtual attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on where charging stations could be located or future ride-n-drive events held. Lively discussions took place about EV charging options for multi-unit and residential housing as well as opportunities to add charging locations in parks or along access points to outdoor use spaces like the Montour Trail. This feedback is considered important for the roll-out of the State's NEVI Plan. PennDOT is especially interested in understanding citizen perceptions about EV benefits, challenges and concerns. Visit [PennDOT's NEVI page](#) or the [Drive Electric PA \(DEPA\) website](#) for more.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022:

The PRCC Board of Directors meeting schedule is as follows:

- November 2, 2022
9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

Three Rivers EVA Electric Car Show

First Presbyterian Church, Laird Hall
3202 North Hills Road,
Murrysville, PA
Every Third Saturday
10:00am – 2:00pm

Global Clean Energy Summit

David L. Lawrence Convention Center
September 23-24, 2022

National Drive Electric Week Ride-N-Drive Event

October 1, 2022
10:00am - 2:00pm

PRCC 20th Odyssey Day Event

CCAC-West Hills Center,
1000 McKee Rd, Oakdale, PA 15071
October 7, 2022
9:00am – 2:30pm

University of Pittsburgh Ride-N-Drive Event

October 2022
TBD



TRAINING COURSES:

The PRCC is working with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and the Community College of Allegheny County - West Hills Center to conduct training classes.

These classes are free to Sustaining Members..

CNG Tank Inspector Prep for Certification

ATE-601-WH85
TBD

Light Duty Natural Gas Vehicles

ATE-115-WH85
1. CEU
TBD

Introduction to Hybrid Electric Vehicles

ATE-136-WH85
1.0 CEU
TBD

Servicing Hybrid Electric Vehicles

ATE-137-WH85
TBD

To register for these classes, contact **Bob Koch at 412-788-7378 or rkoch@ccac.edu.**

PROPANE AUTOGAS IS A WIN-WIN FOR POSTAL MARKET

In early August, Hi Pro, Inc., a postal service contractor with a location in the Denver metro area, unveiled its new propane autogas trucks and fueling infrastructure at a ribbon cutting ceremony. There was a recurring theme throughout the day: Propane autogas makes sense for the postal service because the emissions-reducing, cost-cutting fuel and vehicle technology are available today.

Propane autogas vehicles — like Hi Pro's new trucks — are proven to reduce greenhouse gases and NOx emissions to near-zero levels. According to Drive Clean Colorado, a Clean Cities coalition, the company's propane trucks have a comparable lifetime low-carbon footprint to electric vehicles, but achieve results at a fraction of the price over the lifecycle of the truck. Each truck will produce 281 metric tons of CO2 less per year than the same EV trucks, which would rely on Colorado's electric grid for charging and operating needs.

This is not a knock on electric trucks, but rather a showcase for a fuel and technology that is “ready for primetime” while the other technologies and their ecosystems mature.

USPS's Jennifer Beiro-Réveillère remarked that propane autogas is a viable solution to provide contractors with the low-emissions energy they need to best service their communities.

Greg Reed from the National Star Route Mail Contractors Association agreed that propane autogas is a reliable domestic source of energy, and if there is anything that should move with a reliable, domestic source of energy it is the mail. He said that the postal service is embracing this technology and urging more contractors to use it.

PERC's Steve Whaley added that propane is affordable and abundant — and reduces carbon emissions right now. In addition, propane is reliable. Millions of Americans rely on propane for dependable energy at home, at work and on the road. And it's a stable energy source to support Americans when the electric grid fails.

And, as Hi Pro, Inc. CEO Joshua Stoneback summed it up, “It's a win-win for everyone.”

The next wave of customers is following Hi Pro's commitment to clean energy. These 100+ propane trucks will collectively displace 1.7 million gallons of diesel and its harmful emissions. Contact ROUSH Clean Tech today to learn more about how to adopt this readily available, clean energy into your fleet.



CLEAN INNOVATION AT EVERY BUS STOP

By Todd Mouw, ROUSH CleanTech

This back-to-school season, more than 1.3 million students across the nation will ride to school in emissions-reducing, cost-cutting propane school buses, enjoying American innovation at every bus stop.

While propane school buses provide a clean, safe method of transportation, the benefits of propane autogas extend well beyond the ride to school. That's why more than 1,000 school districts operate over 18,000 propane buses powered by ROUSH CleanTech's advanced clean fuel technology.

The innovative technology behind today's propane autogas fuel systems is what makes propane the most widely used alternative fuel for school buses. Did you know that 24 propane buses produce less harmful emissions than one 12-year-old

diesel school bus? Or that each propane school bus saves a school district more than \$3,500 annually?

As school districts are incentivized to transition to cleaner fuels for their fleets, school leaders must consider all factors when making new purchasing decisions. Propane autogas consistently comes out on top. One of the most important pieces of data school leaders look at? When using a "well to wheels" methodology, propane autogas vehicles compete favorably with electric vehicles in reducing emissions. And, propane buses have much lower acquisition and infrastructure costs.

When all things are considered, propane is the lead horse in helping schools transition away from diesel.

The power, availability and reliability of domestically produced propane is helping the nation lead a clean fuel revolution — and it starts with our most precious resource: our students.





PROPANE FACTS:

Did you know that there are 20 billion surplus gallons of propane in the U.S.? If those gallons were used to convert half of the country's medium-duty vehicles from diesel to propane, the reduction in carbon emissions would be equivalent to taking 4.5 million cars off the road every year. Also known as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or propane autogas, this fuel:

- is produced as a by-product of natural gas processing and crude oil refining
- is stored under pressure inside a tank as a colorless, odorless liquid
- has a high octane rating
- offers high-energy density, clean-burning qualities, and relatively low cost
- and is the world's third most common transportation fuel.

ALT FUEL TAX CREDITS APPROVED FOR 2022-2024

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the single largest mobility investment in our country's history.

This budget reconciliation plan funds an extension of the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit, a \$0.37 credit for each gallon of propane sold in the transportation sector, including off-road vehicles like forklifts.

Here are the details:

- The credit is approved retroactively for 2022 and extended through 2024.
- Propane credits are covered at \$0.37 / U.S. gallon.

Never miss an opportunity to add propane vehicles and infrastructure to your area! [Sign up to receive autogas funding opportunity announcements.](#)



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Charge To Work USA is a national movement of workplaces and employee organizations advocating for workplace charging (WPC) programs at companies all over the country. Charge To Work combines CALSTART with the Department Of Energy's WPC resources to connect interested groups with the support and policy guidelines they need to start democratic WPC programs.

[Learn More or Sign Up](#)



Save the Date!

The 17th annual AltWheels Fleet Day, Presented by Samsara, will be held 'in person' October 3, 2022!

AltWheels Fleet Day will be held in person on Monday, October 3rd at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, MA. With its overarching focus on clean, alternative fuels, vehicles, and technology - encompassing propane, natural gas, and biofuels - AltWheels stands out in the crowded space of auto shows and industry events focused solely on electric vehicles.

[Learn More](#)

WELCOME TO NEW COALITION MEMBERS:



Innovative Rail Technologies



Pioneer Power Mobility

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

PLATINUM MEMBERS:



GOLD MEMBERS:



SILVER MEMBERS:





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Board of Directors would like to thank all our members and stakeholders for supporting our coalition and mission.

PRCC Membership Levels:

- Individual -- \$150
- Nonprofit -- \$300
- Bronze -- \$500
- Silver -- \$1000
- Gold -- \$2000
- Platinum -- \$4000+

Learn more about membership at:
www.pgh-cleancities.org/membership/



CONTRIBUTE YOUR NEWS:

Help us share success stories about the projects in our region!

Please feel free to contact:

Rick Price,

Executive Director/Coordinator

412-735-4114

coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org

LEARN MORE:

Learn more about Clean Cities at:

www.clean-cities.energy.gov

Or get involved with the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities coalition at:

www.pgh-cleancities.org



UNITED WE STAND:
REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001