PITTSBURGH REGION CLEAN CITIES

GAZETTE

DRIVING THE WAY TOWARD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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COLUMBIA GAS LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAM

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On Tuesday, October 25th Columbia Gas officials announced the launch of an alternative fuel vehicle pilot program that uses an adsorbed natural gas (ANG) platform developed by Ingevity Corporation, called NeuFuel, that, when used with renewable natural gas (RNG), has the

potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions up to 130 percent.

During a kickoff event at the Columbia Gas Operations Center in Dunbar, Pa., representatives from Columbia Gas, Ingevity and Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities unveiled the fleet truck that will be evaluated through the program, a Ford F250 fitted with the NeuFuel system, as well as the onsite fueling appliance, and discussed the system's potential as a long-term fleet solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"At Columbia Gas we are relentlessly focused on serving our customers in a way that is safe, reliable, environmentally responsible, and sustainable," said Mark Kempic, president & COO of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. "Using the NeuFuel platform with one of our fleet trucks is a great example of how Columbia Gas is testing innovative technologies from companies like Ingevity to examine potential options for a greener vehicle fleet, cost-effectiveness, and potential growth of renewable natural gas to fuel fleet vehicles."

Unlike natural gas-powered vehicles using compressed natural gas (CNG), ANG-powered vehicles allow a vehicle's fueling system to operate at a lower pressure compared to traditional CNG vehicles. In addition, unlike traditional CNG fueling

Columbia Gas Bi-Fuel Pickup with new Ingevity Low Pressure Absorbed Natural Gas System

BiFuel Filters

stations, an onsite ANG fueling appliance is smaller, low cost, and can easily be redeployed as needed.

Ingevity's NeuFuel system enables vehicles to cost-effectively utilize carbon-neutral RNG and provides a more environmentally friendly option for light-duty trucks and vans. NeuFuel-equipped vehicles can emit over 25 percent fewer greenhouse gases than comparable gasoline and diesel vehicles, and when RNG is used for fueling, emissions can be reduced by anywhere from 80 percent to 130 percent.

"We are excited to welcome Columbia Gas into the NeuFuel family. Our goal is to help fleets immediately and cost-effectively transition to a cleaner, carbon-neutral fuel so that they can save on fuel costs while continuing to advance their sustainability goals," Robert Friedman, Ingevity's managing director of NeuFuel, said. "We are also grateful to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for providing grants to organizations like Columbia Gas, giving them access to alternative fuel technologies like NeuFuel in an effort to further reduce their carbon footprint."

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provided a grant through its Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant Program to fund in part the pilot program. The Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant Program invests in the deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, fleets, refueling infrastructure, and technologies.

"We are enthusiastic about this pilot program and the tremendous potential for innovative natural gas technologies like this," said Kempic. "Columbia Gas, and our parent company, NiSource, continually make investments in pipeline replacement, leak detection, and fleet productivity to improve safety, reliability, and environmental performance. Investments like this will help us reach our corporate goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 90 percent by 2030."

Read more about the NeuFuel Solution in the article about Cobb County, Georgia in this newsletter below. To learn more about Columbia Gas and its focus on sustainability, please visit **www.ColumbiaGasPA.com.**

2022 DRIVE ELECTRIC AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED BY PLUG IN AMERICA

Leaders in the electric vehicle movement include Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, plus activists, event organizers and more

Plug In America has announced the recipients of the 2022 Drive Electric Awards. Now in their fifth year, the

"awards honor individuals and organizations that have demonstrated inspiring leadership in the electric vehicle movement. Plug In America will host a ceremony to present the awards in Manhattan Beach, California, on Thursday, October 27th.

"EVs are now moving into the mainstream in the United States. More and more, you can see them in every town from coast to coast. That would not be possible without leaders such as these in the EV movement," said Tonia Buell, awards committee chair. "We are so excited to present the Drive Electric Awards to these outstanding individuals and organizations."

Each year, Plug In America invites its members to submit nominations. Winners for each category are selected by a nominating committee and approved by the Plug In America Board of Directors.

The 2022 Drive Electric Award winners are:

EV Leadership Award

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg – Since taking the helm at the USDOT, Secretary Buttigieg has overseen a remarkable effort to make electric transportation accessible to all Americans. He has done so by leading the federal government's planning and development of robust charging infrastructure that is now supported by all 50 state departments of transportation as they implement the electric vehicle provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Thanks to the Secretary's leadership, the nation is on the cusp of a national electric vehicle charging network that will help meet the quickly growing demand for electric vehicles.

EV City

Portland, Oregon – Under Mayor Ted Wheeler, Portland, Oregon, has been one of the leading cities in the country to promote electric vehicles and other forms of sustainable transportation. This has been a coordinated effort of interlocking policies over many years to build out the city's fleet and charging infrastructure. "Portland continues to lead the way on EV policy and programs and will be well positioned to build on the current momentum and support the rapid uptake of zero-emission vehicles in our city. We appreciate the role that Plug In America has played in this space and look forward to continuing to support EVs," Mayor Wheeler said.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Kathy Lynch - Kathryn A. Lynch had over twenty years of advocacy experience operating her lobbying practice, Lynch and Associates, in Sacramento, California. She advanced public policy in California for the solar industry for many years

and guided the landmark legislation creating the "net metering" law in California, but her true passion was for electric vehicles. She was an EV driver and fierce EV advocate for many years and represented Plug In America in Sacramento since 2007. She was at the forefront of numerous bills and funding to support infrastructure development and deployment of electric vehicles.

Individual Awards

Paul Scott - Paul is a lifelong environmental advocate and a co-founder of Plug In America. Paul helped create DontCrush.com, Plug In America's predecessor, a grassroots group that single-handedly prevented some 1,000 production EVs from being destroyed by the auto companies that manufactured them. He is among the key figures featured in Who Killed the Electric Car?, the 2006 documentary distributed by Sony Pictures Classics, and consulted for the follow-up, Revenge of the Electric Car. It is no understatement to say that the EV movement would not be where it is today without Paul.

Mary Brazzell - Mary is a long-time advocate for electric cars. She currently serves as Transportation Electrification Program Manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation, Climate Office. In this role, Mary guides ODOT's transportation electrification activities, advancing Oregon's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) charging infrastructure deployment and ZEV adoption across all transportation modes. For many years, she was an independent consultant and played a central role in launching and accelerating numerous EV initiatives, from Edison EV, to Veloz to CALSTART.

Organization Award

Clean Cities – Clean Cities was created by the U.S. Department of Energy nearly 30 years ago to encourage alternative fuel vehicles and to reduce vehicle emissions. Today, DOE facilitates national coordination of more than 75 Clean Cities coalitions. The coalitions have been pivotal in broadly building public awareness of EVs over many years and have been invaluable in leading NDEW events around the country. Mark Smith, who will be accepting the award, is the Technology Integration Program Manager, and is focused on accelerating the development and widespread use of advanced vehicle technologies and other fuel-saving technologies and practices.

Utility Award

PSE&G - PSE&G is the first utility in New Jersey to support the buildout of EV charging infrastructure through a program dedicated to installing 45,000 EV chargers throughout its service territory. They also offer customers reimbursement

for make-ready costs for residential, commercial and DCFC EV charging and an off-peak charging credit for residential customers. PSE&G has also committed to the conversion of all of its passenger vehicles, 60% of medium-duty vehicles and 90% of heavy-duty vehicles by 2030 to battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids.

City Captain Awards

Robert Fernatt - Robert Fernatt is a lifelong resident of West Virginia, the current president of the West Virginia Electric Auto Association (WVEAA), and a powerful spokesperson for EVs in West Virginia and around the region. His passion for electric vehicles led him to purchase his first EV in 2015 and he has organized numerous drive electric events in the state. He has traveled extensively in the region on electric power and frequently presents on the subjects of EV adoption, EV charging, and solar power.

Paul Pancella - Dr. Pancella, a professor of nuclear physics at the University of Western Michigan, has a long history with electric vehicles, starting with the Honda Civic that he converted to electric himself. He leads the Kalamazoo Electric Vehicle Association and has led ten National Drive Electric Week and Drive Electric Earth Day events. He has been a tireless leader and a vocal cheerleader of the EV movement and is known locally as the "go to" person in Kalamazoo for advice on everything from charging to purchasing an EV.

Student Award

Tyler Wittmann - Tyler is a junior economics student at the University of New Hampshire with a passion for building electric vehicles, including a 1981 Honda motorcycle that he converted to electric and now uses for his daily commute. He and friends organized an EV group that is now a chapter of the Electric Vehicle Association. Tyler and the student activists from UNH also traveled to Freeport, Maine to engage with the public and assist Electrify Maine in implementing their very successful NDEW event this year.

About Plug In America

Plug In America is the nation's leading independent consumer voice for accelerating the use of plug-in electric vehicles in the United States. Formed as a non-profit in 2008, Plug In America provides practical, objective information collected from our coalition of plug-in vehicle drivers, through public outreach and education, policy work, and a range of technical advisory services. Our expertise represents the world's deepest pool of experience of driving and living with plug-in vehicles. We drive electric. You can too. Learn more at **PlugInAmerica.org**

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION WILL DOUBLE CLEAN SCHOOL BUS REBATE AWARDS TO NEARLY $1 BILLION:

On September 29th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would nearly double the funding awarded for clean school buses this year following increased demand, with school districts from all 50 states applying for the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates. This is the first round of funding from the EPA Clean School Bus Program, which President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created with a historic $5 billion investment for low- and zero-emission school buses over the next five years.

In May, EPA had announced the availability of $500 million, but given overwhelming demand from school districts across the country, including in low-income communities, Tribal nations, and territories, EPA is nearly doubling the amount of funding that will be awarded to $965 million.

EPA will move swiftly to review applications submitted and expects to issue a robust slate of awards next month. EPA is also designing the next rounds of program funding to launch in the coming months, which will include an ambitious grant competition. Through future rounds of funding, EPA will make available another $1 billion for clean school buses in Fiscal Year 2023.

"Thanks to the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration and the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we're working across all 50 states to accelerate the transition to a future where clean, zero-emissions school buses are the American standard," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "America's school districts delivered this message loud and clear – we must replace older, dirty diesel school buses. Together, we can reduce climate pollution, improve air quality, and reduce the risk of health impacts like asthma for as many as 25 million children who ride the bus every day."

"Today's announcement reflects what we know to be true—school districts across our country are eager to replace their heavy-polluting school buses with cleaner alternatives." said Senator Carper (D-Del.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. "I'm especially pleased to see that there is high demand for electric buses among low income, tribal, and other disadvantaged communities. These are the very communities that stand to gain the most from our historic clean school bus investments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Given the response to the availability of these dollars, it's clear that more

funding is needed. I look forward to working with Administrator Regan, the rest of the Biden Administration, and my colleagues in Congress to build on this progress so that more communities can realize the clean air and energy saving benefits of these cleaner vehicles."

"This is a huge win for our nation's children and our fight against the climate crisis," said House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. "School districts across the country have long recognized the tremendous benefits of zero-emission electric school buses for protecting both our environment and our children's health. With today's announcement, I'm thrilled we are making significant progress toward safeguarding both. I encourage every school district to apply and look forward to seeing this important program in action."

The rebate application period closed in August with an outstanding response from school districts seeking to purchase electric and low-emission school buses across the country. EPA received around 2,000 applications requesting nearly $4 billion for over 12,000 buses. More than 90 percent of buses requested were for zero-emission electric buses. Nearly 9 percent of applications were for propane buses and 1 percent were for compressed natural gas (CNG) buses

The applicant pool includes submissions from all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and federally recognized Tribes.

The Clean School Bus Program will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and produce cleaner air for students, bus drivers, and school staff working near the bus loading areas, and the communities through which the buses drive each day. Diesel air pollution is linked to asthma and other conditions that harm students' health and cause them to miss school, particularly in communities of color and Tribal communities. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from these bus replacements will also help to address the outsized role of the transportation sector in fueling the climate crisis. School districts can save money by upgrading their fleets.

The 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates prioritizes low-income, rural, and Tribal communities. The vast majority of applicants met the priority definition under the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates criteria, resulting in access to more funds for buses and electric vehicle infrastructure for schools in areas that need them the most. The program also delivers on President Biden's Justice40 commitment, which aims to deliver 40% of benefits from certain federal

programs to underserved or overburdened communities.

EPA is currently reviewing submitted applications to determine eligibility and make final selections. EPA anticipates notifying rebate applicants of their selection status in October 2022. Once notified, selected school districts can proceed with purchasing new buses and eligible infrastructure. Selectees will need to submit Payment Request Forms with purchase orders demonstrating they have ordered new buses and eligible infrastructure. After the selectees submit the proper forms, they will be eligible to receive rebate funds.

This is the first of several funding opportunities for the multi-year Clean School Bus Program. EPA anticipates running both a grant competition and another rebate program in 2023. The agency encourages school districts not selected in the first round of rebates – and those that did not apply this funding cycle – to participate in future rounds.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides EPA with an unprecedented $5 billion opportunity to fund the replacement of older school buses with new zero- and low-emissions buses over a five-year period and jump-start the transition to zero emission in our schools. For more information, visit the **EPA Clean School Bus Program website.**

NEW BIL PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES:

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Groundbreaking Partnerships to Connect Small and Disadvantaged Businesses to Infrastructure Program

Biden-Harris Administration Launches $1 Billion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program to Enhance Energy Systems in Rural and Remote Communities

NEVI STAKEHOLDER SESSION ON NOV. 3:

Learn about the State's plan for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program: Thursday, November 3, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Office, Two Chatham Center, Suite 500, 112 Washington Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Sessions include time for presentations and networking. Hosted by PennDOT, Duquesne Light Company, PA-DEP and PRCC.To attend, please register online at: **https://bit.ly/3Dg7wQ9**

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

NEVI Stakeholder Session – Pittsburgh, Allegheny County
Southwestern PA Commission Office
Two Chatham Center, Suite 500
112 Washington Place | Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Thursday, November 3
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Mobility House Charger & Energy Management Webinar
December 7, 2022
2:00 p.m.

Drive Electric PA Coalition Meeting
January 19, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

University of Pittsburgh Ride-N-Drive Event
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.**

HOW COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA IS MOVING TO NET ZERO AT A FRACTION OF THE COST

Al Curtis, Director of Fleet Management in Cobb County, GA is using the latest technology to diversify his fleet and meet his sustainability goals

As fleet managers, you are often looking for ways to maximize your budget while meeting the sustainability and environmental initiatives that have been laid out for you. And, with the limited options out there for fleets to reduce their carbon footprint, electric vehicles (EVs) are often the obvious option and ten to lead the charge. But are EVs really the best and most effective option for every situation? The answer may not be as straight forward as you think.

While you aim to maximize one of today's most important mandates – your sustainability impact – you are usually left working to find the least compromising option for your fleet. Despite the numerous government incentives and local sustainability initiatives that promote certain technologies, you really need to take a step back and evaluate your vehicles and how you plan to use them. Too often fleet managers are left with limited options that aren't the most cost-effective or practical for your entire fleet.

That's why it's important to evaluate your needs, weigh your options and use all the tools in your toolbox.

Al Curtis, Director of Fleet Management for Cobb County Georgia, did just that. For more than twenty years, Curtis has assessed the various needs of his fleet and has worked to diversify the alternative fuel options of his vehicles based on the cost and the intended use of the vehicle.

"Cobb County Fleet management started looking into ways to lower our carbon footprint and save county tax dollars in 2000," Al Curtis said. "Initially, we partnered with Atlanta Gas Light to provide the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Infrastructure and added 40 fully-dedicated CNG cars and trucks into our fleet to demonstrate our commitment to this project. This was our first step into lowering our overall carbon footprint and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions."

That was over 20 years ago and over the last two decades Cobb County has introduced a variety of alternative fuel options for its fleet of vehicles. From switching to a soy-based biodiesel for its fleet, to installing propane conversion kits

on police cars and trucks, to purchasing hybrids and EVs, to most recently integrating Ingevity's NeuFuel platform and the use of renewable natural gas (RNG) for light-duty trucks, Cobb County is a leader in utilizing a variety of alternative fuels in its fleet to reduce their carbon footprint.

"The NeuFuel vehicle platform just seemed like a logical solution for us," Curtis said. "We were able to leverage a zero-carbon fuel in RNG, which is offered seamlessly within the NeuFuel vehicle platform. Additionally, using a renewable fuel source is optimal and impactful in so many ways – it's better for the environment, moves us closer to net zero carbon emissions with a low-cost fuel, and has an infrastructure that is a fraction of the cost of CNG. The ANG fueling appliance taps directly into the commercial utility line serving our facility allowing our use of RNG at no incremental cost."

Net Zero at a Fraction of the Cost

Ingevity Corp. an automotive and sustainability leader as a Tier 1 & 2 supplier to the US and global auto industry, harnessed its 40-years of expertise in activated carbon to develop and commercialize the NeuFuel technology. The activated carbon in Ingevity's technology is sustainability manufactured using sawdust from the furniture-making process.

The activated carbon inside the

The Team in Cobb County, Georgia

NeuFuel tank condenses the natural gas into a liquid, densifying it and allowing the platform to operate at a lower pressure (900 psi) compared to higher pressure CNG (3,600 psi). This allows for convenient private fueling using a low-cost fueling appliance that can be installed anywhere with access to natural gas. It also eliminates the capital investment that typically costs hundreds of thousands to millions of dollar to build a CNG station. The result means that fleets of any size and location can tap into natural gas and ultraclean RNG to significantly reduce their carbon footprint and achieve near-zero emissions.

Additionally, the NeuFuel system is also a path for existing diesel vehicles, an attractive and economical selling point for many fleet owners. Eliminating the need to purchase a new truck or van in conjunction with the low-cost infrastructure required to get started, lowers the risk of entering the alternative fuel market and is immediately accessible for most fleets.

We have spent the last 20 years researching alternative fuel vehicles and incorporating them into our fleets," Curtis said. "It's important to remember that it's not a one-size-fits-all model for most fleets. You have to look at how you plan to use the vehicle, your current infrastructure and your budget. Ingevity's NeuFuel is just another tool in our toolbox that allows us to further our sustainability goals as a county at an affordable cost for maximum benefit."

Columbia Gas Trucks at Odyssey Day, 2022

The NGV America Annual Meeting and Industry Summit is the only dedicated alternative fuels conference and show focused on the North American market for natural gas in transportation. On-road, off-road, and everything in between will be featured, including traditional freight, refuse, transit, marine, rail, and construction. The three-day event will be held at the Wild Dunes Island Resort in Charleston, SC from November 1-3, 2022.

Learn More

FLEET FORWARD conference

Brought to you by Bobit and Automotive Fleet magazine, the Fleet Forward Conference is designed to deliver fleets solutions on electrification, connected vehicles, autonomous technology, last-mile mobility, IoT, shared mobility, Fleet Management as a Service, next-generation telematics, and more. The event will feature a combined Fleet Safety Conference. This year's conference will be held at the Marriott Santa Clara in Silicon Valley, CA on November 9-11, 2022.

Learn More

MIDWEST GREEN TRANSPORTATION
FORUM & EXPO

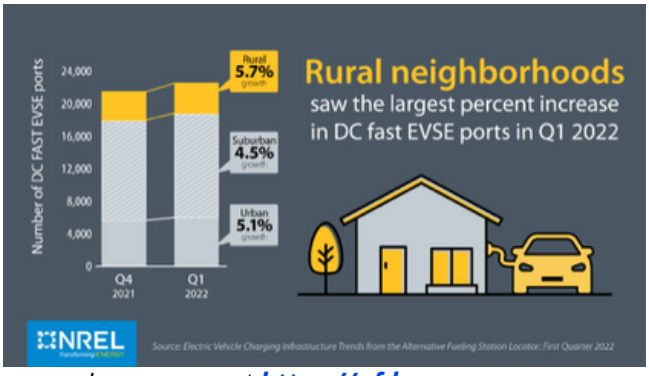
Hosted by Clean Fuels Ohio (CFO) , the Midwest Green Transportation Forum and Expo (MWGT) is a fuel and technology inclusive event perfect for fleets, industry members, policy advocates, and more to come together to network, learn, and find solutions to your biggest questions. The two-day event will be held in conjunction with the Ohio Energy Conference in Columbus, OH on November 15-16, 2022.

Learn More

TAMPA, FLORIDA 2023
UNITED AS ONE
CLEAN FUELS CONFERENCE

Hosted by Clean Fuels Alliance America, the National Biodiesel Conference & Expo has rebranded as the Clean Fuels Conference. This event for business professionals in the biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel industry addresses heavy-duty, renewable fuels for land, sea and sky. Clean fuels producers and marketers, distributors, feedstock providers, fleet managers, ESG officers and members of the media will attend in Tampa, FL, January 23-26, 2023.

Learn More



*Learn more at **https://afdc.energy.gov***

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COALITION MEMBERS:

Bruce & Merrilees
Going beyond the expected, since 1948

Bruce & Merrilees - Silver Level
Allegheny County - Nonprofit Level

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

PLATINUM LEVEL MEMBERS:

GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS:

SILVER LEVEL 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.cleancities.energy.gov

Or get involved with the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities coalition at:
www.pgh-cleancities.org

UNITED WE STAND:
REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001