

GAZETTE

DRIVING THE WAY TOWARD
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING PROGRAMS OFFERED TO SUPPORT WESTERN PA'S ROADSIDE HEROES

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This month the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rallied around its National Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) from November 14-18. The annual commemoration is used to create support for Roadside Heroes by creating awareness about safety issues and inviting drivers to observe safe

driving practices.

In parallel with CRSW, Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities (PRCC) is inviting its partners, including firefighters, emergency medical services, law enforcement, towing and recovery, public works, and safety service patrols, to participate in its newly available Alternative Fuels Vehicle Safety Training Series for First Responders. The series is designed to help local and regional responder units get quickly up-to-speed on how to approach and respond to incidents involving alternative fuel vehicles, such as electric vehicles, compressed natural gas vehicles, propane vehicles and more. Collaborators on the series include the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium at West Virginia University and the National Fire Protection Association.

Collectively, traffic incident responders work to assist road users in need, applying well-rehearsed

procedures to provide emergency traffic control and quickly clear incidents from roadways.

“With many responses, First Responders stand roadside with cars and trucks going by as fast as 80 miles per hour or more,” said Rick Price, Executive Director for PRCC. “In supporting Crash Responder Safety efforts in Western Pennsylvania, we want drivers to understand the risks that First Responders take every day, and the importance of slowing down and moving over when they pass.”

During CRSW, local responders - and the drivers who have received their support - are invited to share their personal stories on the risks they take in keeping our roadways safe and clear. Using the hashtag #RoadsideHeroes, these stories are then circulated online to create greater awareness for the general public.

Respect Our Roadside Heroes by Supporting



CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK
November 14 - 18, 2022

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) marks Crash Responder Safety Week annually in mid-November.

These stories also help to promote Slow Down, Move Over law awareness for drivers. This rule of thumb goes as follows: When passing an incident scene, motorists are asked to slow down and, if possible, move over into an adjacent lane to provide a protective buffer for responders and the motorists behind you.

According to the FHWA, by creating more awareness to Crash Response Safety, we can reduce the number of traffic incident responders injured or killed in the line of duty. From January through November of this year, 41 traffic incident responders have died during the line of duty, and far more sustained life-altering injuries.

“While drivers can make a big difference through their vigilance, training is also a critical part of the effort to save lives, reduce injuries, and decrease traffic incident clearance times,” said Price.

FHWA encourages local first responders to take its free National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder training to stay up-to-date on best practices. More than 600,000 responders have been trained to date through this program, which is available for free as an in-person, online instructor-led, or online self-paced curriculum.

To learn more, please visit: <http://bitly.com/TIMtrain>.

In addition to the FHWA program, PRCC’s new Alternative Fuels Vehicle Safety Training Program for First Responders condenses longer, in-person training made available through the National Fire Protection Association, into a shorter, video-based class that highlights the most basic and pressing response topics for each type of alternative fueled vehicle. This training is also offered free of charge and the program dates can be arranged by request to make the program as convenient as possible.

Said Price, “We asked First Responders directly what they needed to understand most from this training series; that helped us streamline the presentation to the most essential points. Our goal was to deliver the content that is most important in keeping everyone safe in the event of an incident involving an alternative fueled vehicle.”

The Broughton Fire Department participated in the training program’s initial trial at the South Park Municipal Building on June 11, 2022. The group included the Deputy Chief of the City of Pittsburgh, two Lieutenants, police officers and medical staff; PRCC is grateful for the feedback the group provided to improve future trainings.

Currently, PRCC is inviting local and regional fire departments and other first responders to take the first segment of the series, which is focus-

ed on Response to Electric Vehicles. Additional segments on other alternative fueled vehicles will be offered throughout 2023.

To arrange for the training in your area or municipality, simply reach out to Rick Price at coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org or by phone at **412-735-4114** and PRCC will make the necessary arrangements.

The following associations serve on the Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) National Committee, led by FHWA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AASHTO
- American Public Works Association, APWA
- International Association of Chiefs of Police, IACP
- International Association of Fire Chiefs, IAFC
- International Association of Fire Fighters, IAFF
- Institute of Transportation Engineers, ITE
- National Association of State EMS Officials, NASEMSO
- National EMS Management Association, NEMSMA
- National Sheriffs' Association, NSA
- National Volunteer Fire Council, NVFC
- Towing and Recovery Association of America, TRAA

DEP PROVIDES \$2.9 MILLION TO REPLACE OLD DIESEL VEHICLES WITH CLEAN-ENERGY MODELS

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced \$2.9 million in grant funding to replace old diesel trucks and school buses with zero- and low-emission vehicles. The funding comes from Pennsylvania's share of the national settlement with Volkswagen Group of America for cheating on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions tests. To date, the Wolf Administration has awarded more than \$64 million statewide.

"With Driving PA Forward Truck and Bus Fleet Grants, DEP is helping school districts, municipalities, and businesses switch to cleaner transportation, so that Pennsylvania's kids, employees, and communities can breathe healthier air as they go about their day-to-day lives," said DEP Acting Secretary Ramez Ziadeh. "This comprehensive approach to reducing vehicle emissions will help improve Pennsylvanians' health while also helping to slow climate change."

By replacing older polluting engines and equipment with new technologies

funded projects remove nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and hydrocarbon pollution from the air. These pollutants contribute to ground-level ozone, or smog, which EPA has shown has negative health impacts, including asthma attacks and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Zero- and low-emission vehicles also lower carbon dioxide emissions, helping to lessen climate change.

The new Driving PA Forward Truck and Bus Fleet Grant-funded projects will take 42 old diesel trucks and buses off the road, replacing them with electric, propane, compressed natural gas, and new clean diesel vehicles. The projects are located in high-population areas with dense traffic and high air pollution levels.

Two school districts, one municipality, and one business received funding.

Driving PA Forward launched eight grant programs in 2018 with the goal of permanently reducing nitrogen oxides in Pennsylvania by replacing a large number of older diesel vehicles and equipment and promoting cleaner transportation technologies with funding from the commonwealth's \$118.5 million settlement with Volkswagen.



DEP FUNDED RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- **City of Pittsburgh:** \$1,374,000 to replace eight old diesel garbage trucks with four electric recycling trucks and chargers and four compressed natural gas garbage trucks. Annually, the project will remove 1.38 tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx), 314 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2), and other pollutants from the air.
- **School District of Philadelphia:** \$936,000 to replace six old diesel school buses with six electric school buses and charging equipment. Annually the project will remove one-third ton of NOx, 51 tons of CO2, and other pollutants from the air.
- **Sysco Leasing:** \$463,050 to replace 21 old diesel freight trucks with 21 new clean diesel freight trucks at two company sites, one in Philadelphia and one in Jackson Township, Butler County. Annually the project will remove 5.6 tons of NOx, 423 tons of CO2, and other pollutants from the air.
- **North Penn School District, Montgomery County:** \$199,435 to replace seven old diesel school buses with seven new propane school buses at North Penn High School in Lansdale. Annually the project will remove 3.9 tons of NOx and other pollutants from the air.

DEP ANNOUNCES BIGGER REBATES TO HELP MORE PENNSYLVANIANS BUY ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND \$3.4 MILLION FOR INSTALLATION OF 54 FAST CHARGERS IN MAJOR TRAFFIC CORRIDORS

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced it's offering bigger consumer rebates for electric vehicles, with a focus on working-class households, and providing \$3.4 million in Pennsylvania Volkswagen settlement funds for installation of 54 DC fast chargers in 16 locations in major traffic corridors.

"DEP continues to work strategically to support Pennsylvanians' growing interest in zero-emission electric vehicles, supporting electric vehicle purchases for working-class Pennsylvanians and funding installation of fast chargers along major traffic corridors in locations where no fast charging infrastructure currently exists," said DEP Acting Secretary Ramez Ziadeh.

"By reducing nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants from the transportation sector, we make the air quality healthier in our communities, while helping to slow down climate change and its impacts," Ziadeh added.

As of September 1, the DEP 2022-

2023 Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate program is offering Pennsylvanians a bigger rebate for the purchase of a new or used battery electric car or truck. The amount has increased from \$750 to \$2,000 or \$3,000, depending on household income.

The program also lowered the household income levels eligible for a rebate. For example, a family of two with an income of \$69,000 is eligible for a \$2,000 rebate for a battery electric vehicle. A family of four with an income of \$55,500 is eligible for a \$3,000 rebate.

With a total of \$2 million available, the rebate program aims to help get about 1,000 more electric vehicles on the road in Pennsylvania.

The program was established by state law in 2004 and is funded by the utilities gross receipts tax.

The Driving PA Forward DC Fast Charging Grants program awarded \$3.4 million in Pennsylvania Volkswagen settlement funds to projects that will install 54 DC fast chargers in 16 high-traffic locations in 12 counties. DC fast chargers can

can charge a battery electric vehicle to 80 percent in 20 to 60 minutes.

The majority of the projects will help build out electric vehicle corridors across Pennsylvania, where charging stations are available every 50 miles. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is heading up development of these corridors and other charging networks across the state, using National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding.

The Driving PA Forward DC Fast Charging program provided grants to the following projects:

- **6406 Truck Plaza LLC:** \$195,039 to install two plugs at a travel plaza/truck stop within one mile of I-80 Exit 42 in Emlenton, Venango County.
- **Applegreen Electric:** \$250,000 to install eight plugs at a Pennsylvania Turnpike plaza serving the I-476 corridor in Jim Thorpe, Carbon County, and \$500,000 to install eight plugs at two Turnpike plazas serving I-76 westbound and eastbound in Somerset, Somerset County.
- **Blink Network:** \$233,268 to install two plugs at a KwikFill convenience store within one mile of I-80 Exit 29 in Harrisville, Venango County.
- **Coen Markets Incorporated:** \$240,000 to install two plugs at the Coen Market convenience store within one mile of I-76 Exit 91 in Donegal, Westmoreland County, and \$240,000 to install two plugs at the Coen Markets Travel Plaza within a mile of I-70 Exit 6 in Claysville, Washington County.
- **Evgo Services LLC:** \$118,673 to install four plugs at a Wawa store within one mile of U.S. 202 in Malvern, Chester County; \$145,528 to install four plugs at a Wawa store on PA-611 in Pipersville, Bucks County; \$165,663 to install four plugs at a shopping center 2 miles from Rt. 422 in Collegeville, Montgomery County; and \$167,326 to install four plugs at a Wawa on Rt. 202 in North Wales, Montgomery County.
- **Giant Eagle, Inc.:** \$210,000 to install two plugs at a GetGo store within one mile of I-79 Exit 14 in Waynesburg, Greene County.
- **Raceway Management Company, Inc.:** \$205,618 to install two plugs at a Onvo Travel Plaza within one mile of I-81 Exit 219 in New Milford, Susquehanna County, and \$222,752 to install two plugs at the Onvo Travel Plaza within a mile of I-78 Exit 13 in Bethel, Berks County.

- **Sheetz, Inc.:** \$250,000 to install four plugs at a Sheetz store within one mile of I-70 Exit 57 in New Stanton, Westmoreland County, and \$250,000 to install four plugs at a Sheetz within a mile of I-81 Exit 77 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County.

With these grants, Driving PA Forward has now funded installation of 106 DC fast charging plugs in 34 locations around the state. Driving PA Forward

launched in 2018 to permanently reduce NOx emissions in Pennsylvania by supporting clean transportation projects with funding from the commonwealth's \$118.5 million settlement with Volkswagen.

Battery electric vehicle registrations in Pennsylvania more than doubled from March 2020 to March 2022, from 11,343 to 23,689 registrations.

NEVI STAKEHOLDER SESSION ON DEC. 8:

Learn more about the State's plans for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program:

Thursday, December 8
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

PennDOT District 2 Office
Main Conference Room
70 PennDOT Drive
Clearfield, PA 16830

Sessions include interactive discussions, presentations from state and local officials, and time for networking with others around EV projects.

To attend, please register online at:
<https://bit.ly/3Dg7wQ9>

RECENT TRENDS IN EV CHARGING:

A new **NREL report** analyzed trends in EV charging infrastructure reported in the Alternative Fueling Station Locator in the first quarter of 2022. The number of charging ports in the Station Locator increased by 1.2%, including a 1.3% increase in public ports and a 0.7% increase in private ports. Both public and private DC fast ports grew by the largest percentage (6.0% and 2.4%, respectively) compared with Level 1 and Level 2 ports. The Mid-Atlantic region had the largest increase in public charging infrastructure in Q1 (7.6%), though California continues to lead the country in the number of available public charging ports.

[Read this report](#) and [reports from previous quarters.](#)



HOW MANY LIGHT-DUTY ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs) ARE CURRENTLY ON THE MARKET?

EV model availability is expected to increase in the near future, as several original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have announced electrification plans for the U.S. light-duty vehicle market. The OEM announcements vary by technology, milestones, and targets, with some OEMs planning to completely electrify their product lines (e.g., Mercedes-Benz plans to completely electrify their product range for 2025 and General Motors plans to offer only zero-emissions vehicles beginning in 2035). OEMs are constantly updating their vehicle lineup, and below we have provided our go to resources to track EV model availability.

236 EVs

**Alternative Fuels Data Center's (AFDC)
Alternative Fuel and Advanced Vehicle Search Tool**
<https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/search/>

Lists current and future EV offerings
Search by vehicle class, fuel type, and manufacture.

For example, using this tool, a **list of light-duty EVs** currently shows 236 EVs that are commercially available. Note that the same EV model may be listed more than once if it has different configuration options (e.g., range, engine, transmission, drivetrain, etc.)

FuelEconomy.gov's Power Search Tool
<https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/powerSearch.jsp>

Identify light-duty EV models by model year (MY)
Filter for several features such as fuel type and market class

130 EVs

For example, there are 130 MY 2022 EVs listed in the FuelEconomy.gov database. Like the AFDC tool, the same EV model may be listed more than once if it has different features. Note that [Shift2Electric](#) uses fueleconomy.gov as one of its data sources.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022:

The PRCC Board of Directors meeting schedule is as follows:

January 4, 2023 - Rothman Gordon PC
March 1, 2023 - Duquesne Light Co
(tentative)
May 3, 2023
July 5, 2023
September 6, 2023
November 1, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

**The Mobility House Charger &
Energy Management 101 Webinar**
December 7, 2022
2:00 p.m.

**NEVI Stakeholder Session,
Clearfield County**
December 8, 2022
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**CONNECT Activator Series -
Infrastructure & Resilience
Working Session and Lunch**
December 9, 2022
12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

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



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.

Propane Vehicles Workshop

ATE-115-WH85

1. CEU

November 30, 2022

Natural Gas Vehicles Workshop

ATE-115-WH85

1. CEU

December 5, 2022

Electric Vehicles Workshop

ATE-136-WH85

1.0 CEU

January 17, 2023

CNG Tank Inspector Prep for Certification

ATE-601-WH85

February 27-28, 2023

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

1.3-MILLION-MILE EVALUATION PROVES 100% BIODIESEL EFFECTIVE AT DECARBONIZING TRUCKING



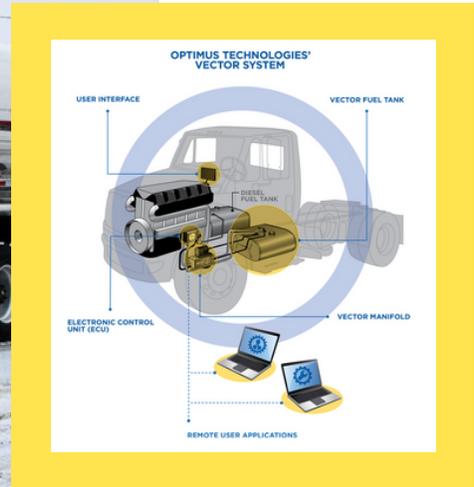
ADM conducts a 16-month field trial equipping Class 8 Mack trucks with Optimus Technologies Vector System.

PITTSBURGH, PA, September 28, 2022 – The Vector System is an advanced fuel system technology that enables heavy-duty diesel engines to reduce carbon emissions by using 100% biodiesel (B100). Already running on commercial and government fleets from Portland, Oregon to Washington, D.C., the Vector System reduces carbon emissions, cost-effectively, in one of the most challenging industries to do so. Until recently, however, the technology had yet to be analyzed on large high-mileage over-the-road fleet applications.

On June 30, 2021, ADM, along with partners Optimus Technologies, Clean Fuels Alliance America, Decatur Mack, AmericanLung Association, Illinois Soybean Association, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, and others, completed an almost 1.3-million-mile field trial demonstrating the Optimus Vector System's viability on Class 8

Mack tractor-trailers. Five B100 trucks were compared against a control group of five identical trucks that operated on ADM's conventional diesel fuel, which is an 11% blend of biodiesel (B11). Both groups of trucks ran similar routes over like duty cycles and in the same conditions. Upon review of the data provided by the trial, the study confirmed the significant environmental and operational benefits of B100 as well as showcasing The Vector System's ability to unlock these benefits for a new segment of heavy-duty transportation.

The Vector System B100 trucks reduced scope 1 carbon emissions by over 940 metric tons throughout the trial. Scope 1 emissions are direct GHG emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization and are typically the primary emissions source for companies with fleet operations to consider as they create sustainability and carbon reduction plans. In addition to deep decarbonization, The Vector System-equipped trucks also saw an increase in fuel economy, a reduction in the ash accumulated in the diesel particulate filter (DPF), an overall reduction in the total number of active DPF regenerations and improvements in a variety of engine crankcase oil parameters.



The Vector System enables diesel engines to operate on 100% biodiesel

100 is a solution that is working today, and this study has demonstrated in yet another use case, Optimus' Vector fuel system technology can be relied on to help decarbonize heavy-duty fleet operations while technologies such as electrification and hydrogen are still decades away from being viable and are cost prohibitive for large scale use. For years, B100 has been in use in a range of municipal fleets such as DC Public Works, the City of Madison, Wisconsin and the City of Ames, Iowa. Now, having been proven effective in commercial fleet operations, B100 is primed to bring its decarbonization benefits to over-the-road trucking.

The full report was made publicly available on October 19, 2022. For more information, please visit: optimustec.com/adm.



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](#)

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