



Clean Cities Quarterly Update

Winter 2007 Edition



General News & Announcements

Transportation Center Opens: The newly formed University Transportation Center for Mobility will study congestion management, nationwide mobility, rural public transit, and infrastructure financing.

Congestion Worsening: A TTI study concludes that traffic congestion is worsening, and that Houston ranks 6th overall among large cities for the annual delay per traveler.

Clean Air Lessons: A new Magic School Bus book is available that teaches children about clean air and diesel retrofits.

Soy Transportation Council Created: The new group has been formed in order to "to solve current and impending transportation challenges affecting the soybean industry."

Clean Cities Conservation: Clean Cities Coalitions' reported that they displaced ~375 million gallons of gas in the United States during 2006.

Clean Cities Newsletters On-Line: Clean Cities Quarterly e-Newsletters are now available on-line at the Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles website.

METRO Actions: The METRO board adopted the proposed alignments of several transit routes and switched four lines from Bus-Rapid Transit to Light Rail technology.

Citizen's Bulletin Board

Transportation Study: The U.S. Climate Change Science Program is soliciting comments on a draft report assessing potential impacts on the Gulf Coast transportation system. The deadline is **December 10, 2007**.

Highway Project Selection Hearing: The TX Transportation Commission will hold a public hearing to highway project selection criteria, in Austin, TX on **December 13, 2007**.

Fuel Cell Info.: The DOE is requesting information regarding potential topics for fuel cell research and demonstration. Comments are due **December 21, 2007**.

Cat. 3 Marine Diesel Regs.: The EPA has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking for Category 3 Marine Diesel engines. Comments are due **February 29, 2008**.

RFS for 2008 Published: The EPA has published notice that the Renewable Fuel Standard for 2008 will be 4.66%.

Fuel Economy Standards Voided: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has voided the government's 2008-2011 fuel economy regulations, and will require NHTSA to develop new rules and an EIS assessment.

Final Part of IPCC Assessment Released: The final "Summary for Policymakers", consolidating conclusions from three earlier assessments, is available in draft form from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Clean Air Product News

International Advances Hybrids: International will begin line production of the DuraStar hybrid medium-duty truck.

International ProStar Certified: International's 2007 Class 8 ProStar truck was recently recognized as an EPA SmartWay tractor-trailer vehicle.

Tire Sealent: Lyna Manufacturing, Inc. is offering a "green" tire sealent intended to keep tires from losing air and to save fuel.

Cummins 2010 Plans: Cummins has announced that their heavy-duty engines will not require any additional NOx aftertreatment to meet 2010 standards; medium-duty engines will use SCR technology.

RydeGreen: Ryder has partnered with Freightliner, Great Dane, and Utility to produce a new line of "green" tractors and trailers.

International 2010 Plans: International has announced that their heavy-duty engines will not use SCR technology to meet the 2010 emission standards.

CARB Approved Air Heaters: CARB announced that the Webasto Air Top 2000 S and Air Top 2000 ST compartment air heaters as well as the Thermo Top Z/C engine coolant pre-heater, will meet LEV II exhaust standards.

Clean Air Product News, Continued

Hyster's Lift Trucks: Hyster reports that most of their lift truck models meet the 2010 emission standards.

Business Opportunities

Win a Hybrid Vehicle! Drive Clean Across Texas is giving away a 2008 Ford Escape Hybrid. Participants must enter the drawing by **December 17, 2007** to win.

Bus Mobility RFP (32 TexReg 6214): TxDOT is soliciting proposals for the FTA intercity bus mobility program. The deadline for applications is **January 28, 2008**.

JARC & NF Funds (32 TexReg 6902): TxDOT is soliciting proposals for JARC and NF grants. Applications are due **February 1, 2008**.

School Bus Funding: The TCEQ has launched a statewide Texas Clean School Bus program. Applications for state funding are due **February 29, 2008**.

Natural Gas Grants: Funding is available for public fleets to replace diesel vehicles with natural gas vehicles. Applications will be accepted until available monies are expended.

Ethanol Research: The Renewable Fuels Foundation is soliciting proposals for ethanol research projects. Applications will be reviewed on a continual basis.

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Events & Conferences

[Diesel Retrofit Webinar:](#) The Diesel Technology Forum will be hosting a free webinar entitled "Diesel Retrofit Projects—Lessons Learned" on **December 5, 2007**.

[EPA Retrofit Workshop:](#) EPA will be hosting a diesel retrofit verification workshop on **December 13, 2007** in Washington D.C.

[Fuel Cell Meeting:](#) The Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee will be meeting **December 18** and **December 19, 2008** in Arlington, VA.

[POWER-GEN Conference:](#) The 2008 POWER-GEN Renewable Energy & Fuels Conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV on **February 19-21, 2008**.

[Ethanol Conference:](#) The Renewable Fuels Association will hold the 13th annual National Ethanol Conference from **February 25-27, 2008** in Orlando, FL.

[Fuel Cell Workshop:](#) The DOE will be holding a pre-solicitation workshop regarding fuel cell research in Golden, CO, **January 23-24, 2008**.

Spotlight of Excellence

This quarter, we salute:

[Dale Halewyne](#), for being awarded a Clean Vehicles grant to replace one older engine with a new 2007-compliant engine.

[Waller ISD](#), for being awarded a Clean Vehicles grant to replace three older engines with new 2007-compliant engines.

[METRO](#), for completing the installation of bike racks on all local buses two months ahead of schedule.

[METRO](#), for initiating service to the new Baytown Park & Ride via route 236.

Fleet Manager's Toolbox

[Light-Duty Report:](#) EPA has released an annual report characterizing the automotive technology and fuel economy for 1975-2007 light-duty vehicles.

[Fuel Economy Data:](#) EPA's 2008 Fuel Economy Guide is now available for all light-duty cars and trucks.

[Carbon Calculator Tool:](#) Donlen and Sierra Club have partnered to develop a Carbon Calculator Tool to assist fleet managers in assessing their emissions and fleet costs.

[AAA Tracks E85:](#) AAA has begun tracking the price and availability of E85 on its Fuel Gauge Report website.

[Biodiesel Guidance Document:](#) The EPA has released a new biodiesel guidance document for producers, blenders, and users.

[E85 Certifications:](#) Underwriter Laboratories has established safety certification standards for E85 dispensers.

[MapQuest Fuel Info.:](#) MapQuest launched a new website that will help you find the lowest fuel prices in your area; includes both traditional and alternative fuels.

H-GAC Program Highlights

This issue, we'd like to take the opportunity to let you know about a few staff changes here at H-GAC.

In October, Stephanie Lee switched groups within H-GAC. She is now a Senior Community Outreach Planner for long-range transportation planning. Although she will still be active in the Clean Cities program, she will no longer be working with the Clean Vehicles program. We congratulate her and wish her well in her new position!

In August, Hans Ingversen joined our group as a Transportation/Air Quality Planner. He's a native Houstonian, graduating from Westbury High School in 1995. He spent 4 years as an aviation mechanic with the U.S. Navy before earning a B.A. in Economics & Geographical Science and a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Queensland, Australia.

Both Hans & I (Christine Smith) will be taking over many of Stephanie's duties. Hans will be responsible for contract management and program outreach. I will be expanding my role from emissions analysis only to include administration of the entire application process and coordination of stakeholder meetings.

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