

# Stakeholder Update



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

March/April 2011

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**PLATINUM, DIAMOND, AND GOLD STRATEGIC PARTNERS**



## SDADP Launches New Website

VCC was proud to introduce the brand new website for the Southeast Propane Autogas Development Program. SPADP is comprised of public and private partnerships throughout nine states in the Southeast U.S. and Washington, D.C. The program's goal over its four year span is to put over 1,000 clean autogas vehicles on the road and implement more than 25 fueling stations throughout the Southeast. The program is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the U.S. Department of Energy. VCC, along with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy and James Madison University, manages and administers the project. The program is working hard to bring an internationally popular fuel technology to Southeastern U.S. fleets and to reduce dependence on imported oil, lower vehicle emissions and create American jobs.

The website will increase awareness of the benefits of autogas and will provide fleets with information about how to get up and running on this clean alternative fuel.



Autogas is domestically produced, clean burning, and costs about a dollar less per gallon than gasoline. The website offers an array of tools and interactive forms to educate the general public as well as potential project partners. An on-site calculator can show you how much money your fleet could save by making the conversion to autogas. An interactive map gives you the address and directions to the

fueling station or conversion center nearest you. Links are provided to the websites of all partners in the program, providing readers with valuable information regarding the program's conversion centers, partners, and fleets. The website will be constantly updated with the latest news and information regarding the progress and successes of the program.

We are very excited to launch this website, which not only highlights our fleet partners and successes, but also serves as a resource for fleet owners and managers who are looking for unbiased information about autogas vehicles and fueling. Autogas reduces greenhouse gas emissions and is domestically produced, so fleets can feel good about their fuel choice while reducing their operating and fuel costs. We'd like to encourage private businesses and government organizations with vehicle fleets to explore the new site and find out what autogas can do for their fleets!

Visit the site at:  
[www.usepropaneautogas.com](http://www.usepropaneautogas.com)

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Virginia's legislative session released some productive alternate fuel legislation, a showcase of some of these bills are below. Other alternate fuel laws are available on the DOE's Alternate Fuel Data Center laws and incentives website.

**SB1236- Ticer- Clean Fuels Biofuels Job Credit Extension-** Extends the sunset date of the tax credit from the 2011 taxable year to the 2014 taxable year.

**HB2105- Bullova- EV Charging Services-** Creates EV rate and allows charging services. Th provision of electric vehicle charging service by a person who is not a public utility, public service corporation, or public service company shall not constitute the retail sale of electricity. Also dictates that public utilities in the Commonwealth shall evaluate options to develop and offer off-peak charging rates or other incentives to encourage owners of an electric vehicle to charge or recharge its battery during non-peak times.



**HB2282- Marshall, Merricks- DGS AFV Fleet Replacement-** Directs DGS Director, Secretary of Administration, and Senior Energy Advisor to plan to replace all vehicles in centralized fleet with alternative fuel vehicles to the greatest extent practicable considering current infrastructure, potential cost savings, and vehicle use, then for DGS to implement.

## Upcoming Events

- 5/4-6- [Propane Engine Fuel Summit and ACT Expo](#)
- 5/3- [Shenandoah Valley Tech Council's Tech Night](#)
- 5/5- Amerigroup Earth Day Event
- 5/24- Knapheide Alternative Fuels Event
- Throughout May- National Bike Month
- 6/16- Amerigas Propane Vehicle Demo



## Department of Energy Announces Electric Vehicle Funding Opportunity

Virginia Clean Cities would welcomes stakeholders interested in electric vehicle planning, deployment, and infrastructure to submit ideas for the current Department of Energy EV Planning funding opportunity, DE-FOA-0000451. <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business/solicitations/index.html#00451> Participation in a Virginia process is optional, but your thoughts are valuable.

This funding opportunity will allow for planning, policy implementation, and advancing existing planning elements from last year's EV activities. Plans must address infrastructure for medium, light, and heavy duty vehicles. Funds cannot be used to purchase fueling infrastructure. This effort will expand upon Virginia's initial EV readiness plan released in October, 2010, and address, at a minimum, items identified in this sample plan outline.

Many stakeholders have been identified and will be contacted to join this effort. If you are interested in submitting early comments or expressing support, please visit our website. There you can also view a copy of the Funding Opportunity Announcement and fill out this survey if you are interested in the Virginia effort.

**FOA Download-** <http://www.hrccc.org/wp-content/uploads/v-April-19-DE-FOA-0000451.pdf>

**Minimum Requirements Outline – SAMPLE Study Outline** <http://www.hrccc.org/wp-content/uploads/SAMPLE-Study1.pdf>

**Form-** <http://www.hrccc.org/news/evfoa/>

## USDA Rural Development E85 Blender Pumps Opportunity

The USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) now provides grants and loan guarantees for rural small businesses for the installation of retail flexible fuel pumps. These grants are for pumps and related equipment and the retrofitting to dispense E85 and other lower blends of Virginia ethanol for vehicles. With these new pumps, station owners can service the rapidly growing fleet of FFVs, help America increase biofuel use, and reduce our dependence on imported oil.



Please review or print the below PDF and take it to any refueling stations that may be rural small businesses interested in selling E85. To be eligible for the project, the station must be owned by a small business in a rural area and have their application in by June 15.

USDA Blender-pump REAP Program PDF [http://www.hrccc.org/wp-content/uploads/usda\\_reap.pdf](http://www.hrccc.org/wp-content/uploads/usda_reap.pdf)

For additional information, stations may be interested in the business case for installing E85 at stations at the Alt Fuels Data Center website [http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/ethanol/station\\_business.html](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/ethanol/station_business.html) and their associated PDF publication <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/pdfs/41590.pdf>.

For an existing E85 station map in the region, please view our station location guide <http://virginiacleancities.org/e85stationlocator.pdf>. E85 sells below the cost of gasoline in Virginia and retailers are able to make a profit from selling the cleaner domestic fuel.

If you are interested in this program, please immediately contact Laurette Tucker at 434-392-4906 extension 125 or email [laurette.tucker@va.usda.gov](mailto:laurette.tucker@va.usda.gov)

## Commonwealth Energy Fund

VCC would like to bring an exciting new opportunity to your attention. First announced on April 8, 2011, the Commonwealth Energy Fund (CEF) is a new source of investment capital for energy-centric entrepreneurs based in Virginia. The aim of this fund is to back high-growth, "commercially-available" energy ventures who demonstrate a high-level of commercial-readiness. In particular, the CEF seeks the very best ventures with the ability to immediately generate significant revenues - and - to create high-value jobs within the Commonwealth of Virginia. CIT GAP Funds invests in companies headquartered, and with an express desire to grow in, the Commonwealth of Virginia.



### Sectors to be Funded:

- Renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, ocean and hydro
- Transportation technologies such as vehicles and components, batteries and fuel cells
- Bio fuels such as cellulosic ethanol, algae, biomass and biodiesel
- Green building technologies such as software, control systems and sensors
- Water treatment and purification
- Green information technology such as power management and smart grid technologies

For more information, visit [www.citgapfunds.org/cef](http://www.citgapfunds.org/cef)

## Congratulations to Graduating VCC Interns!

Virginia Clean Cities has had the great privilege of working with two very motivated, dynamic, and intelligent interns. Jamison Walker and Christopher Levy will be walking with James Madison University's Class of 2011 and we'd like to congratulate both of them on this great accomplishment!

Chris will be receiving his B.S. in International Business and has been a great asset to VCC over the past school year. Chris' crowning achievement has been his diligent work compiling a propane station map, and his help with various events and outreach activities. We wish Chris the best of luck as he sets out on his career path.

Jamison has been with us for over a year and his drive, passion and curiosity for alternative fuels and technology, along with his excellent work ethic, have seen him contribute greatly to the cause of clean transportation in Virginia. He will receive his B.S. in Integrated Science and Technology, with concentrations in Bio-Energy and Business Administration. As part of his academic career, Jamison completed a thesis project involving idle-reduction policies and technologies in Virginia that was funded by the EPA's Clean School Bus USA program. Jamison has become an integral part of the VCC team, and will be joining us full-time after graduation!

We congratulate Jamison and Chris on their accomplishments!

## NEW STAKEHOLDERS

We'd like to thank the following new VCC Sponsor Organizations:



**Birch Studio** is a branding agency that creates complete marketing materials, with purpose. Using their proprietary Birch process as a framework, Birch guides clients through the creation of new ideas and modern-day artifacts.



**Beltway Companies** is a regional source for new and used commercial trucks, including medium-duty, heavy-duty, and severe service international trucks for sale, lease and rental. They also offer electric trucks such as the Navistar eStar truck. Beltway is committed to being a green commercial truck dealer.



**Port of Virginia** fosters and stimulates commerce of the ports of the Commonwealth of Virginia, promotes shipment of goods and cargoes through the ports, seeks to secure necessary improvements to navigable tidal waters within the Commonwealth, and in general performs any act or function which may be useful in developing, improving, or increasing the commerce, both foreign and domestic, of the ports of the Commonwealth while conducting those activities in an environmentally sensitive and sound matter.



**AmeriGas'** mission since 1959 has been to provide customers with the most reliable, safe, and responsive propane service in the nation. Over 1.3 million customers use AmeriGas propane services in nearly 50 states. That has made AmeriGas the largest marketer of propane in the US. AmeriGas uses the size of its organization to your advantage every day, retaining our focus on friendliness and personal attention found only in a "corner store". Today that attention to customer's needs continues as AmeriGas offers easy access to online payments and account management. Count on AmeriGas propane for a variety of uses, including home heating, space heating, water heating, pool and spa heating, drying, cooking, grilling and autogas/motor fuel

*Virginia Clean Cities is a 501c3 nonprofit that operates only with continued participation from our wide range of interested sponsors and stakeholders. If you are not a member and would like to consider membership, please visit our membership page below:* <http://www.hrcc.org/get-involved/join-us/>

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