

# Stakeholder Update



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January / February 2011

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PLATINUM, DIAMOND, AND GOLD STRATEGIC PARTNERS



## Virginia Ports GO Program Making Strides



Virginia Clean Cities (VCC), in coordination with the Virginia Port Authority, has been working to put in place a sustainable voluntary truck retrofit/replacement program. that aims to reduce the amount of air pollution from drayage trucks in the state of Virginia. The Green Operators (GO) Program was formally launched in 2009 after The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality provided funding for owner-operators and trucking firms to retrofit or replace their older model trucks. The goal of the program is to reduce the amount of air pollution from drayage trucks in Virginia. This is achieved by replacing or retrofitting diesel engines in Virginia port drayage trucks with 2007 or newer technology that significantly reduces diesel exhaust.

The program offers up to \$15,000 rebates to replace older trucks or 100% of the cost of a retrofit device up to \$6,000 for 2004-2006 model year trucks. The state's funding was made possible by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Clean Diesel Program. As the third year of the program begins, the project successes grow.

The goal over the past year was to retrofit or replace 5% of the 2,700 trucks that operate the Port.

The program actually exceeded this goal by 3% and resulted in funding emissions upgrades and replacements for 210 of 2,700 port trucks. For the 2011 fiscal year, VCC has already established a substantial waiting list, established a program website, added a new program hotline, and is realizing success as one of the top port programs on the east coast.



VCC and the Virginia Port Authority continue to develop relationships between a diverse stakeholder group, including local shippers and carriers to establish sustainable partnerships for program growth. With their help, this program will continue to be a great success story.

For more information on this program, contact Kevin Finder at [kfinder@hrccc.org](mailto:kfinder@hrccc.org). You can also visit the new program website at [www.greenoperator.org](http://www.greenoperator.org).

VA Green Operator Program: 757-255-TRUK

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Greetings Virginia Clean Cities Stakeholders,*

*I am pleased to present the latest edition of our stakeholder update in a new, and improved format. The update is a brief on clean transportation happenings in the Commonwealth and beyond. Virginia Clean Cities is currently working with our great stakeholders throughout the state and within the southeast and mid-atlantic region on many exciting and cutting-edge projects.*

*You can read about some of these, including our very successful Clean School Bus and Green Operator programs, our hydrogen and electric vehicle outreach efforts, as well as some of the great new efforts being promoted by our loyal stakeholders.*

*We have many exciting events coming up. Learn about them in the upcoming events section. The Virginia Clean Cities team is excited about the next year as we continue to make more improvements to better serve you. We appreciate all that you do to promote greater use of domestically-produced and cleaner fuels and technologies, as well as reduce your overall impact.*

*With Thanks,*



*Chelsea Jenkins*

## Upcoming Events

2/25: [IMU Hydrogen Seminar](#) Sponsored by 25x25

2/28-3/3: [Energy Independence Days](#)

3/7: [Virginia Biomass Energy Group Conference](#)

3/7-8: [NTEA Green Truck Summit](#)

3/8-11: [NTEA Work Truck Show](#)

3/11: [University of Maryland Hydrogen Seminar](#)

3/23: [Fleet Innovation: Ecodriving, H2, and EVs](#)

4/19-21: [Electric Drive Vehicle 2011 Conference](#)

May - Propane Vehicle Demo - Richmond

Summer 2011 - Biodiesel Webcast and Seminar

## Clean School Bus Program Reaches Completion

VCC has reached a milestone! We have recently completed and closed out work on all projects related to our Environmental Protection Agency funded Clean School Bus USA grant.



The objective of the project was to promote healthful air, especially for student riders, by reducing diesel exhaust emissions from school buses in Virginia through several methods, including: installation of exhaust after-treatment devices, use of biodiesel blends and propane, and bus replacements.

The program was a success as VCC was able to convene a diverse array of partners to initiate several exciting projects. Some highlights include:

- Retrofitting buses in Middlesex, Essex, King and Queen, and Gloucester County with diesel oxidation catalyts
- Subsidizing biodiesel usage in buses in King and Queen and Gloucester Counties
- Installing idle-reduction heating units in 14 buses in Albemarle County and 10 buses in Virginia Beach
- Helping Gloucester County launch the first propane school bus program in the Commonwealth

This project has improved air quality and health in Virginia school systems. We hope that increased awareness will lead to more localities moving towards cleaner options for all fleet operations.

While this project is complete, we will post additional success stories and case study information on the project later this year. For more information on this and all other VCC projects, please visit our website:

<http://www.hrccc.org>

## How Does Tire Pressure Effect Fuel Economy?

While the landscape is increasingly exciting for alternative fuels and advanced technologies, individuals are also looking towards simple ways to increase efficiency and lower emissions. During the 2008 campaign, President Obama captured headlines by addressing the Department of Energy recommendation that monitoring and maintaining proper tire pressure can have immediate effects on fuel efficiency. Many people are still taking this valuable advice to heart. Tire pressure is a vital determinant to the efficiency of your vehicle.

Under-inflated tires decrease a vehicle's average fuel efficiency by as much as 3.3%. A 10 lb. difference in air pressure on a set of dual-tread tires causes the lower pressured tire to drag an additional 13+ feet per mile. The Department of Transportation estimates that



37% of all tires in use on American roadways are inadequately inflated, wasting an estimated 2 billion gallons

of fuel each year in the U.S. alone. Clearly, some easy adjustments towards very noticeable gains in Virginia. In fact, the DOT has also estimated that properly inflated tires could eliminate 250 lbs. of GHG emissions per vehicle per year, or than 57.5 billion pounds of CO2 total.



While the traditional tire pressure gauge is a great option, there are more sophisticated systems on the market that will give your fleet extensive and real-time information. One of our stakeholders, VMACS, delivers fuel efficiency-boosting technologies to fleets, and works with Pressure Pro to market an automated system to monitor and display tire pressures. The system checks pressures 12,340 times daily and is capable of displaying pressure both moving and stationary vehicles. To learn more, check out Pressure Pro at VMACS website:

[http://www.vmacs.net/tire\\_pressure\\_monitors.htm](http://www.vmacs.net/tire_pressure_monitors.htm)

## Learn About Hydrogen!

Virginia Clean Cities will be holding several Hydrogen Education Seminars over the next few months. These seminars will be great opportunities for anyone who is interested in hydrogen to learn more about the subject and the applications for the energy carrier fuel. The seminars are geared towards decision makers and leaders in business and government as well as first responders and those interested in transportation, emergency preparedness, code enforcement, conservation, communications, and homeland security.



The seminars are focused on leading decision makers towards informed policy choices, and to encourage the adoption of early market hydrogen-based technologies such as fuel cells, fork lifts, and stationary power. We encourage all of our stakeholders to consider attending one of the upcoming events at the following locations:

[James Madison University](#) (2/25) Sponsored by 25x25  
[University of Maryland](#) (3/11)  
[Fairfax County Government Center](#) (3/23)

## VCC Grants Update

Virginia Clean Cities has had a busy period with partner grant applications. Our latest grant award was from the Soy Checkoff for a collaborative regional biodiesel education project in concert with the Greater Washington DC Coalition. This grant represents a \$22,000 partnership for biodiesel and bioheat video podcasts, and a northern Virginia educational seminar. The seminar will be broadcast electronically and archived for stakeholders. Look for our biodiesel seminar next summer.

Virginia Clean Cities most recent grant application was for the Environmental Protection Agency's National Clean Diesel Campaign. VCC, JMU, and partners submitted a request for more than \$2 million to help Virginia fleets retrofit more port trucks, replace and repower more construction equipment, and to do natural gas conversions and retrofits of diesel fleets throughout the Commonwealth. While we await the EPA review, we will continue to explore innovative ways to partner and improve or displace diesel emissions.

The 2011 Clean Cities solicitation is expected soon, and the 2012 federal budget includes significant investment in alternate fuel vehicles and infrastructure, particularly electric vehicles. For more information, or if you have interest in a project, please contact us.

<http://www.hrccc.org/contact-us/>

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## NEW STAKEHOLDERS

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



**Bauer Compressors** has been manufacturing high pressure compressors for over 60 years. BAUER has earned a reputation as the world's foremost innovative designer and manufacturer of high pressure compressors and purification systems.



**ROUSH CleanTech** offers dedicated liquid-propane injection fuel systems for a variety of light- and medium-duty Ford vehicles. Currently offered through authorized Ford dealerships around the country, the ROUSH CleanTech propane system delivers the same factory Ford performance characteristics, warranty coverage, and serviceability.



**Ferrellgas** provides its Blue Rhino propane to approximately one million customers across the United States. The company is also a leader in providing Autogas for vehicle and machine fleets, providing fleet managers through their nationwide supply network. Ferrellgas also fields one of the largest alternative fuel fleets in America.

On February 17, 2011, a VCC partnership with Ferrellgas and Roush successfully launched a propane autogas demonstration vehicle loan program in Norfolk Virginia. Would your fleet like to try?

For more information, please visit [www.hrccc.org/autogasdemo](http://www.hrccc.org/autogasdemo)



**Old Dominion University** is committed to sustainability. This is evidenced through the school's efforts on its own campus, including becoming a STARS charter participant, as well as through its research relating to environmental and energy issues.



**Phillips Energy, Inc.** serves as a full energy service provider to commercial and residential customers in the upper Tidewater area of Virginia with specific focus on the Gloucester, Mathews, York County and Williamsburg areas. Over the last 10 years, the company has added a propane gas distribution division and recently opened a new fueling facility that is the first private station in the Commonwealth of Virginia to dispense three different alternative fuels (biodiesel, ethanol, and propane Autogas).

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.hrccc.org/get-involved/join-us/>