Construction Repower Project First of Its Kind in Virginia

Virginia Clean Cities, in cooperation with James Madison University, is managing the first ever construction repower project in the Commonwealth of Virginia through an award from the Environmental Protection Agency. The project will reduce harmful diesel pollution by replacing or repowering a total of 11 off-road construction vehicles that are operated by Luck Stone Corporation, a leader in the aggregates industry known for its innovative approach to operations. The vehicles are located in Richmond, Charlottesville, Leesburg, and Burkeville. The EPA’s $710,000 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant, combined with $1.1 million in matching funds from Luck Stone is being used to fund an ambitious project.

These vehicles will see a 50 percent reduction in nitrogen oxides and 65 percent reduction in particulate matter for each piece of equipment. Annually, the project will eliminate 30.85 tons of nitrogen oxide, two tons of particulate matter, 11.93 tons of carbon monoxide, and 2.74 tons of hydrocarbons from being emitted at the four Lucks Stone plants.

Along with the environmental benefits, Luck Stone will likely see more efficiency from the vehicles, as the newer model engines are more fuel efficient, resulting in lower annual fuel costs.

“Putting clean diesel engines to use will bring cleaner, healthier air for the workers and neighborhoods surrounding these plants,” said EPA mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. “EPA is pleased to support Virginia Clean Cities’ newest initiative to improve air quality and public health for Virginia’s citizens.” Luck Stone’s Vice President of Environmental Design & Development Doug Palmore said, “We are honored to be participating in the inaugural construction repower project for Virginia along with the EPA, James Madison University, Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality and Virginia Clean Cities,” Palmore added. “This partnership lines up perfectly with our environmental ethic and practices which focus on creating a net positive outcome for the environment and communities we serve.”

This story highlights the success of creating an effective partnership based on shared environmental values. Luck Stone has always been a leader in efficiency and environmental sustainability in the aggregate industry, and these attributes link directly with VCC’s mission and that of James Madison University. Through the hard work of this diverse partnership, this program has been a success and will set a precedent for similar future projects throughout the Commonwealth. For more information, please visit www.vacleancities.org.
Legislative Update

Last month we informed you of several alternative fuel related bills being brought before the Virginia General Assembly. An update on the progress of those bills is below:

HB2105- Bulova- 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. Passed both houses and been approved by the Governor effective 7/1/11.

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. Passed both houses and has been enacted into law.

There is a planned bill signing of these two items on Tuesday, July 12th, 10 am at the Department of General Services Fleet Office

At the Federal level, there are also a couple of significant newly introduced pieces of legislation being considered:

HR 1380- Sullivan- NAT GAS Act- provides incentives for the use of natural gas as a vehicle fuel; the purchase of natural gas fueled vehicles; and the installation of natural gas vehicle refueling property. The bill will provide numerous provisions such as a tax credit of up to 80% of the cost of buying a natural gas vehicle.


Ford Focus Launches in Virginia

On Friday, May 6th 2011, Ford unveiled the 2012 Ford Focus Electric Vehicle at a press conference including VCC and stakeholders in Richmond. The press conference and event illustrated the ways in which Richmond Virginia is preparing for electric vehicles. This release included a comprehensive overview about electric vehicle technology and energy needs, infrastructure development and government and utility policies being developed to support these new automobiles.

Potomac Overlook Regional Park, in Arlington, VA, invites owners of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles to enjoy a visit to the park and charge up free while they are there! The park recently installed a charging station with both Level 1 (110V) and Level 2 (240V) capabilities. In addition to charging up free, electric vehicle and plug-in hybrid owners get the privilege of driving down the park road to near the nature center where the charging station is located. The park is actively soliciting companies or individuals that can provide an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle for park use.

Potomac Overlook is an educational facility with a heavy emphasis on energy issues. Any company or individual who enables the park to acquire an electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid will receive a level of acknowledgment and promotion commensurate with their kind donation and/or facilitation. Individuals should call Potomac Overlook at 703-528-5406 and ask to speak to Martin Ogle or Rich Bailey, or e-mail mogle@nvrpa.org.

Public access electric vehicle charging infrastructure has also recently opened at Virginia Commonwealth University. The two Level 2 charging stations are installed on the second floor of the West Broad Street parking deck and are the first Level 2 chargers installed at a university in the state of Virginia. The Science Museum of Virginia, in conjunction with Urban Grid, has also installed a Level 2 charger. The charger opened for business on June 1st and is located at 2500 W. Broad St. in Richmond. Virginia now has 22 public electric vehicle chargers, and many more are installed each month. View locations at http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/progs/ind_state.php/VA/ELEC

The 2012 Focus Electric was displayed for the first time in Virginia alongside prepared remarks, and a Q&A with speakers.

Richmond is one of the first of nineteen markets in the United States that are slated to receive the Focus Electric in late 2011. Ford recently recognized the city for being among the 25 EV ready markets in the U.S. The strength of public/private partnerships and a joint resolution to prepare for plug-in electric vehicles in the Commonwealth were among the reasons for this inclusion. While Ford has not yet announced a price for the Focus Electric, they have indicated that the price would be comparable to other plug-in electric vehicles on the market.
**Director’s Message**

Just when we think it can’t get any better at Virginia Clean Cities, it does! We’ve held several successful events over the last few months, worked on several exciting opportunities for our stakeholders, officially hired our Clean Cities University intern, added a new intern and a few fantastic stakeholders.

Over 70 attended our electric vehicle stakeholder event held at VCU on June 8th. Alleyn and I also got to attend the national Clean Cities Stakeholder Summit in Indianapolis during the week of June 27th. The summit provided a forum for collaboration between DOE, coordinators, and stakeholders to discuss opportunities, challenges, and strategies.

**Virginia Clean Cities Holds Successful Stakeholder Event**

Virginia Clean Cities held a successful stakeholder event on June 8th at Virginia Commonwealth University. Over 75 Virginia Clean Cities stakeholders, organizations, and interested individuals joined VCC for the stakeholder meeting, which included a ride-n-drive opportunity featuring the Chevy Volt. Attendees learned about what the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation are doing to prepare for electric vehicles, what vehicle electrification could mean for their organization, and what they can do to get involved.

**Guest Article: Penn State EcoCar Team**

Penn State’s Advanced Vehicle Team participated in EcoCAR, a challenge sponsored by General Motors and the Department of Energy that pits 16 international college engineering teams against each other in an effort to create the most efficient and consumer-friendly hybrid vehicle. The Penn State team has reached out to form a relationship with VA Clean Cities based on their shared mission to promote alternative fuels and vehicles with the goals of reducing harmful emissions and decreasing dependence on petroleum.

Penn State EcoCAR attended the VA Clean Cities workshop on March 23, 2011 in Fairfax, VA. At the workshop, they were able to discuss their mission and technology with other attendees, while learning more about electric and hydrogen vehicle technology and efficient driving. “We were thrilled to attend such a well-organized, informative workshop to share our goals and missions, and expand our own knowledge at the same time,” said Penn State EcoCAR Outreach Coordinator Allison Lilly. “We’d like to thank Chelsea Jenkins and Alleyn Harned for being such welcoming hosts.”

The team enjoyed various presentations on alternative energies, and was able to participate in an efficient driving workshop using ScanGauges provided by VA Clean Cities. They were also given the opportunity to test-drive several alternative fuel vehicles. Thorpe drove an electric van through the parking lots at the Fairfax County Government Center. “It was my first time driving an all-electric vehicle,” she said. “It was remarkably quiet when it started, and it drove very well. I was so happy I got a chance to try one out.” Team members also had the chance to speak directly with GM representatives about the Chevy Volt, which is a very similar in vehicle architecture to the team’s EcoCAR.

Penn State EcoCAR was fresh off of their spring workshop at the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory. This workshop included rigorous rounds of emissions testing and a media Ride and Drive event.

During the Clean Cities workshop, Penn State EcoCAR was fresh off of their spring workshop at the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory. This workshop included rigorous rounds of emissions testing and a media Ride and Drive event.

In addition to working on the actual EcoCAR, a GM-donated vehicle that has been renovated into an extended range electric vehicle, the team also spends a lot of time reaching out to members of government, consumers, and students, much like VA Clean Cities. In the 2010-2011 academic year, Penn State EcoCAR hosted 53 of events to reach out to members of government, media, and consumers, including informational panels, ride and drives, and creative promotions. The team supports all forms of alternative energy – not just vehicle-related – and is making it a point to educate the Central PA community. Presentations and award ceremonies. Please check out the Penn State website at [www.hev.psu.edu](http://www.hev.psu.edu) or the EcoCAR Challenge website at [www.ecocarchallenge.org](http://www.ecocarchallenge.org) for competition results!

- Allison Lilly
Clean Cities TV

Virginia Clean Cities and our stakeholders have recently had increased opportunities for video outreach. In March and April, VCC worked with producers at Chantilly Virginia’s TV Worldwide, and with PBS’s MotorWeek to advance several videos. These professionally produced segments include a natural gas showcase for Richmond’s new private station and refuse haulers, a hydrogen fuel cell update of some stationary projects, and a success story for alternate fuel vehicles at James Madison University.

In addition to these studio videos, Clean Cities also posted a handful of in-house videos, including stakeholder products and video of fuel cell demonstration units built by Virginia students. This new medium allows interested internet viewers to stumble upon clean fuel projects supported by the coalition.

To see these and other alternate fuel videos, please visit http://www.cleancities.tv/ and http://www.youtube.com/VirginiaCleanCities.

Richmond CNG Progress

The City of Richmond is making a difference through the use of alternative fuel vehicles! In February of 2011, the City implemented a fleet of 25 compressed natural gas (CNG) waste collection vehicles with the help of Virginia Clean Cities. “Natural Gas is a tremendous transportation fuel. In fact, using natural gas for transportation is one of the most efficient uses for our natural gas energy resource,” said Maureen Matsen, who is the energy advisor to Governor McDonnell. Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones stated that “Clean Cities has been a wonderful partner in this regard, helping us to get the grant and pushing us toward our goals of providing the kind of green fleet that we want to have.” Not only will this help the City become a little more green, but it will help them save money as well. In fact, the City is estimated to save approximately $1 million in fuel, maintenance and personnel costs!

Natural gas is distributed throughout the United States in extensive pipeline systems that extend from the wellhead to the end user. Every continental state has access to natural gas through pipelines. The pipeline system consists of long-distance transmission systems, followed by local distribution systems. Natural gas vehicles can easily be fueled at public stations or on-site refueling can be built. Individual home compressors use a time-fill system for overnight refueling. A small compressor would usually be located in a home’s garage area and would be connected directly to the natural gas supply in the house. For more information on CNG vehicles, visit NGVi’s online buyers’ guide at www.ngvi.com/bg.

New Stakeholders

Accredited Telematics Providers Association of America is an independent association established to ensure the integrity of vehicle tracking system providers in support of end users. Accredited Telematics Providers Association (ATPA) has established criteria to clearly separate the companies who “have what it takes” from those who are “jumping into the game to make a quick buck.” ATPA thoroughly vets providers prior to granting them accreditation. There is not a limit to how many companies may be accredited, but they each must meet the same strict criteria.

City of Norfolk is a leader in municipalities adopting and welcoming clean transportation policies. The city is active in planning policies to reduce CO2 emissions, including an advanced mass transit plan. The city is also home to the Port of Virginia and the Norfolk Naval Base, both of which host significant clean transportation projects (Virginia GO Program at the port, and E85 fueling infrastructure at the naval base).

If you are not a member and would like to consider membership, please visit our membership page at http://www.hrccc.org/get-involved/join-us/

Upcoming Events


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