



MBCC News

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Special points of interest:

- Michael T. Richard has joined the US Department of Energy. Michael Li is currently Acting Director of the Maryland Energy Administration.
- Clean Cities was featured on 103.1 WRNR the morning of the Beyond a Billion event.
- Bonnie Raitt is coming to the area the first week of December. Her tour buses run on biodiesel.
- If you have stories for MBCC News, email them to Lauren Robbins.

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Celebrating Beyond a Billion with Clean Cities!

On October 14, Clean Cities coalitions across the country held local events to celebrate displacing more than a billion gallons of petroleum... enough to fuel 2 million cars for a year!

MBCC held a successful event with over 50 attendees in Centreville, MD at the Queen Anne's County Public Works Biodeisel fueling station. Stakeholders, legislators, government officials, students, and press were all apart of this exciting event.

MEA Director Michael T. Richard said, "I applaud the Metropolitan Baltimore Clean Cities for working with Marylanders to displace petroleum with the use of alternative fuels. The Beyond a Billion event is an excellent



opportunity to showcase Maryland's efforts to increase energy independence."

The event showcased a variety of alternative fuel technologies. The General Motors HydroGen3 fuel cell vehicle and the President's "Propane 1" Ford F250 truck were available for Ride and Drives. Hybrid technology was featured in the Ford Escape Hybrid and Honda Civic Hybrid. A Flexible Fuel Ford Taurus running on ethanol and a Compressed Natural Gas Honda Civic were also present. Biodiesel was featured in a new Jeep Liberty diesel (with factory fill of B5 blend), a John Deere tractor (with factory fill of B2 blend), and a Queen Anne's County school bus running on a B20 blend.

After remarks from Queen Anne's County Commissioner Cupani, MEA Director Michael T. Richard, US Department of



Energy Clean Cities' Marcy Rood, and MBCC coordinator Lauren Robbins, Maryland Delegate Richard Sossi pumped the ceremonial "billionth gallon" of alternative fuel into the biodiesel school bus. Students from nearby schools took turns pumping as well.

DOE's Marcy Rood remarked, "Reaching the billion-gallon mark required sustained effort over the past decade, and since 1994, the Baltimore Clean Cities Coalition, through leadership of the Maryland Energy Administration, has been an important member of this national movement to use American-made fuels."

Quarterly Meeting Summary

The September 21 Quarterly Meeting had 22 attendees, several of which were joining our coalition for the first time.

Patricia Passarella of the US Department of Energy announced that MBCC had been awarded two SEP Special Project grants: coalition support and idle reduction technologies.

Lauren Robbins gave a presentation on the parts of the Energy

Policy Act of 2005 as well as the Highway Bill. A summary of the bills can be found on the Clean Cities page of the MEA website.

Mike Li of MEA gave a brief presentation describing the roles and responsibilities of the Renewable Fuels Incentive Board and the implications of the Renewable Fuels Promotion Act of 2005. For more information on the new Act, visit

www.energy.maryland.gov.

Jim Demb of EV Rentals gave a presentation on his proposed Clean/Green Ride Share demonstration project. The project would take place on a Maryland campus and would allow college students to share in the use of alternative fuel vehicles while eliminating congestion and the need for multiple parking spaces on campus.

Upcoming Solicitations: Biodiesel and Propane

The Maryland Energy Administration is pleased to announce two funding opportunities for alternative fuels. The National Biodiesel Grant Program will be administered by the MEA office, and the National Propane Grant Program will be administered by the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC), both starting in November.

The National Biodiesel Grant Program encourages partnerships between Clean Cities coalitions and Qualified State

Soybean Boards. Projects can be funded up to \$15,000 for the purposes of biodiesel infrastructure, education, and outreach. For more information, contact Lauren Robbins at 410-260-7542 once the solicitation is posted.

The National Propane Grant Program will fund projects that demonstrate and document various ways to successfully implement propane powered vehicles, increasing the number of propane gallons sold to reduce our country's dependence

on foreign oil. For more information, contact Lauren Robbins or PERC once the solicitation is posted.

Both programs are funded at a total of \$200,000 and will begin accepting proposals in November. As MBCC stakeholders, you will receive notice once the official solicitation has been published. More information will be available on the MEA website: www.energy.maryland.gov.



Special Project Award: Coalition Support

The Maryland Energy Administration is pleased to partner with New West Technologies, LLC in providing support to the Metropolitan Baltimore Clean Cities coalition. The US Department of Energy awarded \$20,000 for coalition support.

New West Technologies will work with MBCC in the following areas: reducing petroleum use in local fleets, holding an Advancing the Choice event, updating the AFDC alternative fuel information, meeting with local policy staff members, and

assisting in quarterly stakeholder meetings as well as annual national and regional meetings.

Several members of the New West Technologies staff have been stakeholders in the coalition for many years: Dave Gelman, Mike Laughlin, Tom Perrot, and Greg Wilcox.

Stakeholders should expect to hear from Mike Laughlin and Greg Wilcox in the coming months as they work to re-establish membership for the purposes of re-designation.

Mike and Greg will also be holding Outreach and Policy Committee meetings to discuss any modifications that could make our coalition more effective. Re-designation is an excellent opportunity to renew our commitment to petroleum displacement.

If you have any ideas of how to make MBCC stronger, please contact coordinator Lauren Robbins at 410-260-7542 or lrobbins@energy.state.md.us.

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Special Project Award: Idle Reduction

The Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) have received \$65,301 from the US Department of Energy to purchase and install Clever Devices BusLink Switches on approximately 100 Neoplan Transit Buses and to connect and extend MTA's wireless bus communication to these buses.

MTA operates a fleet of 822

diesel-fueled buses. It is estimated that these vehicles idled over 2,250,000 hours and consumed over 2,800,000 gallons of diesel fuel in 2003. The buses mainly idle to facilitate cold weather start-up, maintain operating temperature, and ensure interior temperature on the bus.

The use of the Clever Devices BusLink Switches and wireless bus communication system will facilitate “just in

time” engine starting and warm up.

This project will serve as a pilot project. Annual diesel fuel displacement is estimated to be 303,797 gallons for 100 buses and will result in emissions reductions of 25.7 tons for NOx, 0.3 ton for PM, 8.3 tons for VOC and 99.4 tons for CO. If this pilot is successful, MTA will install the Clever switches fleetwide.

