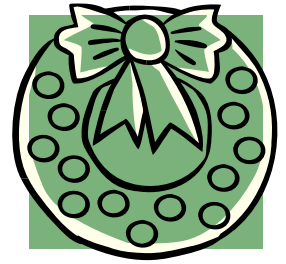




MBCC News



Special points of interest:

- Mark your calendars for the next MBCC quarterly meeting: **January 25**, 11:00 AM at MEA.
- After two months as Acting Director at MEA, Michael Li has passed the torch to new Director Frederick Davis.
- The National Biodiesel Grant Program has been postponed until next year.

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Propane Projects Awarded

The Department of Energy (DOE) Clean Cities program recently teamed with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and the Propane Education & Research (PERC) Council in administering the National Propane Grant Program. The review committee received a total of twenty-five proposals demonstrating the development of propane applications for the purposes of petroleum displacement and energy independence. Proposals addressed on-road and off-road applications, infrastructure needs and technology advancement.

A total of \$200,000 was awarded to six projects varying in both propane application and geography. These awards were used to leverage approximately \$4.7 million in matching funds. Clean Cities Coalitions across the US were encouraged to apply for the grant funds and proposals supported by local coalitions were given bonus points in the proposal scoring.

Maryland was pleased to receive one such award for \$30,000. A proposal entitled "Market Assessment, Preliminary Design, and Funding Resources for Propane-Fueled

APUs and Generator Sets on Long-haul Tractors" by MBCC stakeholder New West Technologies, LLC was funded to demonstrate how using propane to fuel heavy truck auxiliary power units and generator sets could significantly reduce emissions as well as maintenance costs,

The review committee was very pleased with the breadth and quality of proposals received and hopes to fund a second round of the National Propane Grant Program in the coming year.

Increased Awareness of E-85 in Annapolis

The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPUB), MEA and MBCC have been spreading the word that E85 is available in Annapolis.

On December 22, MBCC stakeholders Lynne Hoot of MGPUB and Mike Li and Lauren Robbins of MEA were present at the Citgo Station on West Street encouraging Annapolitans to fuel up with E85. The promotion was in conjunction with an E85 awareness campaign with 103.1 WRNR radio station. For two hours WRNR listeners were told to hurry to the Citgo station

where they could fuel their flexible fuel vehicles with E85 for a mere \$1.03 per gallon.

As part of the awareness campaign with WRNR, Lynne also participated in a radio interview on the show "Voices of the Chesapeake" to discuss ethanol and grain producers in Maryland.

Stakeholder Jill Hamilton has also been helpful in getting the word on the streets about E85. Selecting educational "Ethanol Minutes" to run on WRNR and sending out Press Releases, Jill and Lynne are working hard to increase awareness of this do-

mestically produced renewable fuel.



Mike Li says E85 is king, though he really supports ALL renewable fuels.

Redesignation Update

Thanks to all the stakeholders who have responded to the email requests made by Russ Owens at New West Technologies for redesignation commitments! Clean Cities Coalitions are asked by the Department of Energy to be redesignated every five years. This process allows us to update our contacts, reach out to new stakeholders, and secure funding for future projects.

If you have not yet contacted Russ Owens or Lauren Robbins about redesignation, please

email lrobbins@energy.state.md.us at your nearest convenience.

Redesignation is also a time to consider what could make the coalition stronger. Several ideas concerning dues structures have been proposed. If you would like to influence whether or not MBCC collects dues, and the best way to collect said dues, please do not miss the upcoming Quarterly Meeting at the Maryland Energy Administration on Monday, **January 25** at 11:00 AM.

If you have any other concerns or suggestions for making MBCC a stronger coalition, redesignation is the best time to discuss such improvements. What can MBCC do to make your membership more meaningful? What topics would you like to see covered in the coming year? What projects do you think should be a priority for MBCC and the State? These are all questions we look forward to addressing in the January 25 meeting. Hope to see you there!



Recent Happenings

On November 28th, Mike Li and Lauren Robbins went to a "Barenaked Ladies" concert in Baltimore to talk about Clean Cities. Incidentally, this popular band is comprised only of men... all of whom are fully clothed. Clean Cities was asked to talk to concert-goers about the benefits of alternative fuels. This was a great opportunity to reach a different crowd.

The Renewable Fuels Incen-

tive Board convened its first meeting on December 14th. This Board was created by the Renewable Fuels Promotion Act of 2005, SB740 signed into law by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. on May 10 of this year. The Board (comprised of representatives from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Business and Economic Development, the Department of Environment, and the Energy Administration) will award credits to qualifying

applicants producing biodiesel and ethanol in Maryland.

The State's E-85 station in Baltimore recently went to procurement and will begin construction shortly.

If you have an event you want to be mentioned in the next MBCC News, please call Lauren at 410-260-7542 or email lrobbins@energy.state.md.us to be included.

*Merry
Christmas and
Happy New
Year from
Clean Cities!*

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars now for the next Clean Cities Quarterly Meeting, **January 25** (Monday) at 11:00 AM. We will be meeting at the Maryland Energy Administration and we will discuss redesignation, the possibility of creating a dues structure, and ideas for an upcoming "Advancing the Choice" event.

The National Biodiesel Conference will be held in San Diego, California **February 5-**

8. Several stakeholders will be attending as well as Clean Cities Coordinators across the nation. This is a great opportunity to network with others in the biofuels industry.

San Diego will also be home to the 2006 Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle Conference, **February 22-24.**

The Clean Cities Congress will meet in Phoenix, Arizona **May 7-10.** The theme this

year is "Fueling Economic Solutions." The Congress expects 1,500 attendees and 75 exhibitors demonstrating the benefits of all alternative fuels and petroleum displacement technologies.

For more information on these events, or to submit an event to be featured in the next MBCC News, please email Lauren at lrobbins@energy.state.md.us or call her at 410-260-7542.

