



MCC News

Volume II, Issue I

July 31, 2006

Special points of interest:

- Name Change: We are now MARYLAND Clean Cities (MCC) to reflect the work we are doing throughout the state.
- Mark your calendars for the next MCC quarterly meeting: **September 13**, 11:00 AM at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

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2006 National Clean Cities Conference

The 2006 Clean Cities Conference in Phoenix was hosted by the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute this past May. The light-duty vehicle OEMs were well represented and included General Motors (GM), Honda, DaimlerChrysler (DCX), Ford, and Toyota. The conference attendance was a record, highlighting the increasing interest in alternative fuel and hybrid vehicle technology.

Robert Hirsch from SAIC presented results from a U.S. DOE study looking at peak oil production. The study concluded that, given basic assumptions regarding usage forecasts, serious efforts related to petroleum reduction, and significant alternative fuels use need to be begun 20 years or more before the oil production peak to avoid serious shortages.

All of the fuel advocacy groups are looking to extend the fuel tax credits beyond the current timeframe, seeing this as a critical point to maintain the momentum.

There is a wide range of E85 and hybrid vehicles available or soon to be available from OEMs. General Motors released a full-size hybrid pickup recently, but will continue in the future with two additional hybrid platforms. One system will be installed on the Saturn Vue/Chevy Malibu and the other will be installed on full-size SUVs (25% better fuel economy). Ford Motor Company offers E85 versions of the F-150, Taurus, Crown Victoria, Grand Marquis, & Town Car. The current Escape hybrid system will soon be applied to the Mercury Mariner, Ford Fusion, and



Mercury Milan. Daimler Chrysler will offer E85 versions of various Dodges (Ram pickup, Durango, Stratus, and Caravan), Jeeps (Grand Cherokee and Commander), and the Chrysler Sebring. Toyota now offers a hybrid Camry and is considering various E85 models and diesel engines for heavy-duty applications in the future.

Most of the conference presentations are available for download on the AFVI website (<http://www.afvi.org/PhoenixCongress2006/presentations.html>).

Maryland's First Biodiesel Plant Opens in Berlin, MD

In June 2006, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Maryland Agriculture Secretary Lewis R. Riley and Energy Administration Director Frederick G. Davis joined the James and Virginia Warren family of Maryland Biodiesel to commemorate the opening of their new biodiesel fuel production facility in Berlin. Director Davis presented a citation on behalf of Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., honoring the Warren's new business

initiative. The biodiesel plant, the first in Maryland, is capable of producing 500,000 gallons of biodiesel annually and is expected to increase production by an additional one million gallons in September. The facility will specifically support the local economy through the purchase of soybean oil from Perdue Farms' Grain and Oilseed Division and a local source of food oil.

"This opening of this facility is

evidence that Maryland is at the forefront of agriculture-based technology. The creation of renewable fuels benefits our environment and economy and shows that Maryland is working," said Governor Ehrlich about the new plant. "I applaud the Warren's vision and entrepreneurial spirit to see this project to fruition and look forward to the renewable additions it will make to our energy supply."

Maryland Endorses the 25x'25 Initiative

The 25x'25 Initiative is a commitment by private individuals, groups, businesses, and governments to increase the amount of energy from renewable sources we use to 25% by 2025. The group's website (<http://www.25x25.org>) has details on the initiative, its goals, and participants.

In June 2006, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. joined 12 other governors and four state legislatures, pledging Maryland's support for the initiative. In his letter to the organization he

highlighted several initiatives in Maryland that are working towards the goal. The initiatives include the opening of the state's first biodiesel production plant in Berlin (see full story on Page 1) and the first state-owned ethanol (E85) refueling facility in Baltimore. Through the Renewable Fuels Incentive Act of 2005, the state provides a tax credit incentive for biofuels production.

The Governor also signed the State Fleet Biodiesel Fuel Usage Act of 2006 requiring at

least 50 percent of State fleet diesel vehicles to use a five percent blend of biodiesel by the year 2008. The State Highway Administration is already using a 20 percent blend of biodiesel. The State's Clean Energy Incentive Act of 2006 provides a production tax credit for electricity generation from clean, renewable resources.



Recent Happenings

The June 23 MCC meeting at CleanCities.com headquarters in Baltimore was a great success! Special thanks to **Luis MacDonald** and his staff for putting on a great meeting for us, and shuttling us to the Orioles game afterward in GEM electric vehicles. At the meeting, MCC extended our best wishes to Patricia Passarella from the U.S. Department of Energy as she transitions out of Clean Cities service. Our sincerest wishes for success in her

future endeavors go out to her, and special thanks for many great years of service to MCC!

In other news, Nissan recently announced the availability of a new flexible fuel ethanol vehicle, the Armada sport-utility vehicle. This vehicle will be available in 2007 as an FFV, joining the company's FFV Titan pickup. In addition, Mercedes will offer their C280 sedan as a flexible fuel vehicle in 2007. For a complete list of the 2007

flexible fuel vehicle offerings, visit <http://www.e85fuel.com/e85101/flexfuelvehicles.php>.

If you have a recent "happening" that you would like to have mentioned in the next MCC News, please call Lauren Robbins at (410) 260-7542 or e-mail at lrobbins@energy.state.md.us.



Upcoming Events

The next MCC quarterly meeting is coming up! We will meet September 13 at 11:00 AM at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) in Baltimore. Directions to BMC and parking are forthcoming.

The National AFV Day Odyssey is coming up on **October 12**. MCC will be participating in this nationwide event (last held in 2004) to raise awareness for alternative fuel vehicles and their benefits.

As the date draws closer, we will be informing everyone of the event location and time. For more information on the National AFV Day Odyssey, visit <http://www.nationalafvdayodyssey.org>

For more information on these events, or to submit an event to be featured in the next MCC News, please call Lauren Robbins at (410) 260-7542 or e-mail at lrobbins@energy.state.md.us.



Best Wishes from MCC for a Great Summer!