



STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

JUNE 2019

EPA Officially Allows Year-Round E15 Sales



The U.S. Department of Energy has released some funding opportunities for several areas: Alternative Fuel Proof of Concept in New Communities; Innovative Alternative Fuel or Efficiency Approaches; Electric Vehicle Data Collection; and Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Infrastructure for Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness. If you have ideas - send them to aharned@vacleancities.org. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed actions to allow for year-round sales of 15% ethanol blends (E15).

Andrew Wheeler, EPA administrator, signed the finalized action that would remove the key regulatory barrier to using gasoline blended with up to 15% ethanol during the summer driving season, as planned by President Donald Trump in an announcement last October. [{more}](#)

Year-round Appreciation with NOx-reducing Propane Buses

PLATINUM





Each spring, students, parents and communities celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Let's thank all of the teachers who work tirelessly to educate and nurture our kids. Teachers deserve more than a week of praise and thanks, as this is one of the most undervalued professions in the country today. [{more}](#)

Blue Bird First to Offer Ultra-Low NOx, Type-C School Bus Fueled by Compressed Natural Gas

School districts and transportation contractors can now purchase buses fueled by compressed natural gas that are 90 percent cleaner than the national emissions standard, opening more opportunities for funding that supports reduced emissions.

"Our customers want bus innovations that are environmentally friendly and allow them to access emissions-based grant funding, and the Blue Bird Vision CNG bus delivers," said Phil Horlock, president and CEO of Blue Bird Corporation. "This is a huge step for Blue Bird and the school bus industry as we continue to be the first to bring the newest and cleanest engine technology into our lineup of buses." [{more}](#)

We count on a growing membership base to support the organization and its activities, and you can help our operation by joining us as a stakeholder, sponsor, or partner.

For more information about Coalition Membership, please visit the Coalition's [Join Us](#) membership page.



DIAMOND



GOLD



FTA Announces \$423 Million in Grant Funding for Buses and Bus Facilities



Federal Transit Administration

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of approximately \$423.35 million of Fiscal Year 2019 funds for buses, bus facilities, and bus equipment. Synopses and full announcement will be posted on Grants.gov as opportunity [FTA-2019-003-TPM](#). Proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov website by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time June 21, 2019. [{more}](#)

EVgo Goes 100% Renewable to Power the Nation's Largest Public EV Fast Charging Network



EVgo, the nation's largest public electric vehicle (EV) fast charging network, today announced that it has contracted for 100% renewable energy to power its customers, becoming the first EV charging network in the United States to do so. EVgo contracts with its energy suppliers and renewable energy certificate (REC) partners to ensure that each gigawatt-hour delivered on its fast charging network financially supports an operating renewable energy generator in the U.S. EVgo's 100% renewables commitment was announced today as part of the spring member meeting of the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance (REBA), of which EVgo is a member. [{more}](#)

Five Virginia School Districts Receive



EPA Awards for Cleaner School Buses



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded more than \$9.3 million to replace 473 older diesel school buses across the country.

The funds are going to 145 school bus fleets in 43 states or territories, each of which will receive rebates through the EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding. The new buses will reduce pollutants that are linked to health problems such as asthma and lung damage, the agency says. [{more}](#)

Virginia Becomes First Southern State to Join Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Despite state budget language that remains in place and could cripple the program, the State Air Pollution Control Board approved a new carbon rule Friday that links Virginia to a network of carbon-trading states.

"We have full authority to move forward at this point," said David Paylor, director of the Department of Environmental Quality. "The governor is considering all options." [{more}](#)

Royal Farms Celebrates Sustainability Initiative with Opening of Latest E85 Station at National Harbor



For more than a decade Royal Farms has made sustainability a priority. Efforts include building all new stores to meet LEED certification requirements, sustainability education for staff, and recycling waste cooking oil into biodiesel. While the programs have at times added cost and complexity to projects, the company's unwavering commitment is making an impact. To date, cleaner ethanol fuels have already displaced enough gasoline to cut greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of planting 54,319 trees and letting them grow for ten years. The National Harbor location is the 12th Royal Farms store in Maryland or Virginia to introduce renewable fuels with Protec, with more anticipated in the future. [{more}](#)

Virginia /DC Reaches Air Quality Milestone



FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced **Monday April 15th** that Metropolitan Washington, D.C., which includes numerous jurisdictions in **Northern Virginia**, has formally attained the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone. The announcement included Virginia's plan for maintaining compliance with the standard. Approval represents an important milestone for Virginia and recognition that air quality throughout the commonwealth meets the federal health-based standard. [{more}](#)

Renewable Natural Gas Reaches 32% NGV Use



Natural Gas Vehicles for America (NGVAmerica) and the Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG Coalition) on April 16th announced that 32 percent of all on-road fuel used in natural gas vehicles in calendar year 2018 was renewable natural gas (RNG).

Captured above ground from organic material in agricultural, wastewater, landfill or food waste, RNG - or biomethane - produces net carbon-neutral and even net carbon-negative results when fueling on-road vehicles like short- and long-haul trucks, transit buses, and refuse and recycling collection vehicles. RNG fuel in 2018 had an EER-adjusted carbon intensity as low as -303.30 according to the California Air Resources Board. By comparison, California's electricity grid rated between 25.0 and 38.95. [{more}](#)

Donate Your Vehicle to VCC and Earn a Tax Deduction!



Virginia Clean Cities is a certified motor vehicle charity consigner! If you have a vehicle rusting away in your parking lot that you need to be rid of, and want a tax-deduction for it, we'd love to take it off your hands! [{more}](#)

Support VCC with a Monthly Contribution of
\$10, \$25 or \$50

You can now support Virginia Clean Cities with a recurring

monthly donation of as little as \$10. Your generous support helps VCC deploy EV charging stations, propane schools buses, and CNG transit vehicles. [{more}](#)

New and Returning Stakeholders



Upcoming Events

June 16, 2019: [Virginia Pupil Transportation Conference](#) - Richmond, VA

June 17, 2019: [GFX Government Fleet Expo](#) - New Orleans, LA

June 24, 2019: [New Jersey Hydrogen Workshop](#) - Rowan University

July 18-19, 2019: [Resilient VA Conference](#) - Charlottesville, VA

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit
<http://www.vacleanities.org/events>

Thank you for your support of our organization, and we hope you enjoy this newsletter!

For more information from Virginia Clean Cities, please contact Alleyn Harned
at aharned@vacleanities.org
or (540) 568-8896.



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