



STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

April 2020

UPS Becomes the Largest Consumer of Renewable Biogas in the United States



Committed to its sustainability goals, UPS has entered into multi-year renewable natural gas agreements with Kinetrex Energy and TruStar Energy. These two contracts, which will supply UPS with up to 80 million gallon equivalents (GEs) of biomethane over the life of the agreements, build on a prior contract in which UPS agreed to purchase 170 million gallons of biomethane, its biggest commitment to date. Over the next seven years, UPS has agreed to purchase 250 million GEs of biomethane total, making the company the largest consumer of this biofuel in the transportation industry. "The use of renewable gas is a very important part of UPS's strategy to increase alternative fuel consumption to be 40% of total ground fuel purchases by 2025," said Mike Whitlatch, vice president of global energy and procurement, UPS. [\[more\]](#)

Update on Legislation that Supports Alternative Fuels in the 2020 General Assembly



PLATINUM



Leaders in the Virginia General Assembly have put forward many pieces of legislation that include mention of clean fuel vehicles or studies in a major way this year! Virginia Clean Cities supports the advancement of clean fuel vehicle policies, with the coalition asking for government at all levels to support lower emission technologies, support the reduction of dependence on petroleum gasoline and diesel, and allowing Virginia's economy to move forward. and wanted to share some of these as an FYI.

- **HB 577 - State Pollution Control Board; implementation of low emissions vehicle program.** (Del. Keam) - This bill increases the availability of AFVs by joining 13 other states in setting dealership goals for clean vehicles in Virginia. The restriction of clean vehicles at dealerships is seen as a consumer and fleet impediment to Virginians (Virginian's often buy from neighboring dealerships in Maryland). **Failed House Appropriations committee**
- **HB 20, HB 1152 - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Energy Efficiency Fund.** (Del Lindsey, Del. Lopez) - These efforts join our peers with an electric power emissions trade program. Peer states such as Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts and New York frequently use RGGI funding for clean transportation projects such as vehicle and infrastructure rebates which qualify under GHG abatement. Incorporated in HB 981 - **Passed Senate and House but did not include transportation emission reduction projects.**
- **HB 717 - Electric vehicle rebate program / study.** (Del. Reid) - This bill assists consumers, auto dealers, and vehicle manufacturers in developing a robust market for electric vehicles in Virginia by providing an incentive to choose zero-emission vehicles over polluting gasoline and diesel vehicles. **Revised to be a DMME study of the EV incentive. Passed House and Senate.**
- **HB 511 - EV Chargers at state facilities.** (Del. Bulova) - This bill clarifies language to enable government to better participate with clean fuel infrastructure for staff and guests. **Passed House and Senate.**
- **HB 1140 & HB 75 - Clean School Bus by 2030 and Electric school bus pilot program** (Del. Keam and Del. Kory) - These bills explore Virginia's public schools for the purchase of clean school buses from a utility program or bringing Dept of Education forward as a partner for vehicles. **Failed to pass the House.**
- **SB 630 - Common interest communities; electric vehicle charging permitted.** (Sen. Surovell) - This bill empowers citizens to install their own charging stations in their homes and parking spaces. **Pass House and Senate.**
- **SB 911 - \$500 Penalty Blocking EV Parking** (Sen. Hashmi) - This bill that enables local governments to better enforce EV parking. **Failed the Senate**

CMAQ Government Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle Incentive is Accepting Applications



The CMAQ Government Vehicle Incentive program, which had been paused since 2018, is now once again accepting applications from qualifying local and state government fleets to transition to propane, natural gas, electricity. There is a new process and new restrictions on what the Program can reimburse, so please go to the program website for more information. Good news: Vehicle

ROANOKE



DIAMOND



GOLD



conversions to equipment that uses American steel can advance right now, funding up to \$10,000 incremental cost per vehicle! Visit the page or contact VCC for details.

<https://vacleancities.org/reports-2/cmaq-incentive-program/>



EVgo Offers EV Charging Discounts to Critical Workers



EV charging network EVgo is offering an incentive for critical workers. If you know anyone who still needs to drive an EV for work in health care, grocery, food services, rideshare, delivery or are otherwise experiencing hardship due to COVID19, call EVgo to work with drivers on a special time-limited deep discount. Contact EVgo: (877) 494-3833 or support@evgo.com. [{more}](#)

Virginia Transit Association Update on COVID-19 Relief Legislation

The U.S. Senate has reached an agreement on a \$2 trillion coronavirus relief bill, which contains \$25 billion in emergency relief funds for transit operators. Transit agencies can use the funding to cover lost revenue, costs to maintain service, expenses for increased cleaning of vehicles and facilities and paying administrative leave of operations personnel in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Below is a summary of other components of the bill:

FTA must apportion the funds within 7 days of the bill's enactment.

Funding will be distributed among four existing FTA programs in the ratio that those programs received FY 2020 apportionments. Regardless of the program, all funding can be used for operating costs. Below is an estimate of how the \$25 billion may be apportioned:

- Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula (\$13.9 billion)
- Section 5311 Rural Area Formula (\$1.8 billion)
- Section 5337 State of Good Repair Formula (\$7.6 billion)
- Section 5340 Growing and High Density Formula (\$1.7 billion)

Funding for operating expenses are not required to be included in a transportation improvement program (TIP), long-range transportation and statewide transportation plans, or a statewide transportation improvement program (STIP).

Funding recipients "should make every effort to appropriately adjust operations in response to reduced demand as a result of coronavirus." [{more}](#)

The Benefits of Teleworking

Telework means working at any alternative location other than your central worksite. A telework program gives selected employees and managers the option of working off-site on a full-time, part-time, or even temporary basis. Staff may choose to work from home offices, telework centers, or satellite offices. How formal or informal your telework arrangement is depends on your company and employee needs. Some teleworking arrangements require nothing more than a phone line, while others involve a full home office setup. How simple your telework arrangement is depends on your company's business needs. [{more}](#)

Donate Your Vehicle to VCC and Earn a Tax Deduction!



Virginia Clean Cities is a certified motor vehicle charity signer! 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

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.

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

All upcoming events have been canceled or postponed.

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

VCC is working on a series of webinars that we will share in an upcoming Newsletter.

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@vacleancities.org or (540) 568-8896.



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