

# Virginia Clean Cities



Stakeholder Newsletter

2014 Volume 1- January

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Diamond and Platinum Level Stakeholders



## Virginia Clean Cities 2013 in Review

2013 marked Virginia Clean Cities' 17th anniversary, and with the support of stakeholders from across the Commonwealth, the coalition continues to strive. 2013 saw significant advancement in deployment of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure, and the advancement of educational efforts to affect change in Virginia's transportation landscape. The year also saw advancement with several grant projects and partnerships. VCC completed the Southeast Propane Autogas Development Project, which was an \$8.6 million effort to convert over 1200 vehicles across the southeast region to run on propane autogas. The coalition also engaged Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway for alternative fuel projects through the Department of Energy's National Parks Program. VCC also grew its partnership with James Madison University by expanding work on the DOE funded Electric Vehicles Readiness Project, which produced a technical report that will facilitate barrier reductions for electric vehicle deployment across the Commonwealth. VCC also was involved in facilitating the enactment of a wholesale fleet transition for the State of Virginia. Governor McDonnell signed an executive order enacting a public-private agreement to transition state vehicles to propane and natural gas. The state and transition partners identified a way to save taxpayers \$1 a gallon while boosting local economies. Municipalities and private fleets throughout Virginia are also jumping on board with this transition, seeking ways to integrate with the effort and to learn more about their options.



stakeholders about vehicles, infrastructure, and policy. VCC also saw continued media outreach to spread the word about the program's mission and the benefits of clean transportation across the Commonwealth. These efforts resulted in media placements in top outlets in print, radio, TV and social media.

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Executive Director Alleyn Harned is enthusiastic about this year's successes. "Virginia has more than 16,000 alternative fuel vehicles in Virginia's 96 voluntary green fleets, and nearly 350 alternative fuel stations, which represents a 400% increase in just 4 years", said Harned.

While VCC is proud to highlight these achievements, we recognize that there is much more work to do to fully realize the goal of a clean transportation future in the Commonwealth. Virginia still spends \$35 million every day on petroleum from other countries, and air quality challenges are still a reality. Harned outlined a path forward during VCC's first annual Rally at the Raceway. "In the year ahead we have 5 simple goals: continue upward momentum with a 20% increase in our coalition's impact on petroleum reduction, continuing the growth and success of our diversified deployment program grant portfolio, engaging in Virginia's policy-making landscape, increasing stakeholder involvement and support, and enhancing the coalition's operational capacity", said Harned.

As the year winds down, VCC would like to thank all of our stakeholders for the great partnerships we share with each of you. Because of your support, our coalition leads the way in deployment and education in the alternative fuels field. We hope these collaboration continue and expand in 2014!

2013 also saw VCC advance significant efforts focused on educating fleets and stakeholders about the benefits of alternative fuels. The coalition facilitated natural gas and propane vehicle working groups to encourage collaboration and educate

To learn more about Virginia Clean Cities, visit [www.vacleancities.org](http://www.vacleancities.org).

## Rally at the Raceway

# Rally AT THE RACEWAY

In light of VCC's 17th anniversary, the coalition and its partners hosted the Rally at the Raceway at the Richmond International Raceway (RIR) on Thursday, November 21st. This also coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Clean Cities program.

Alternative fuel vehicles drove across Virginia to RIR for the Clean Fuel Awards for government officials and fleets. There was a full program with alternative fuel and fleet partners including a ride and drive with propane powered medium duty vehicles, natural gas powered light and heavy duty vehicles and electric cars like the Tesla Model S and Nissan Leaf. Entrepreneurs, fleet managers, and policy makers then came together for a State of the Alternative Fuel Industry Address.

As part of the program, Virginia Clean Cities announced the latest alternative fuel fleet vehicle interim numbers in the Commonwealth including 16,695 vehicles in 96 fleets. Virginia Clean Cities also announced that there are currently 350 alternative fuel stations in Virginia. Alternative fuel vehicles include hybrids and vehicles fueled by electricity, propane, CNG, E85 and biodiesel. Finally, Virginia Clean Cities announced that 9 million gallons of petroleum have been displaced from usage of these alternative fuels as well as 70,000 tons of greenhouse gases.

"The key to Clean Cities' lasting success over two decades is its ability to build relationships," said Alleyn Harned, Executive Director of Virginia Clean Cities. "Through the coalitions, stakeholders learn from one another's experiences, replicate past successes and work together on projects and events. This kind of collaboration creates economies of scale for alternative fuels and tipping points of demand for advanced vehicles, so petroleum is no longer the only game in town."

Clean Cities advances the nation's environmental, economic, and energy security by supporting local actions to cut petroleum use in transportation. A national network of nearly 100 Clean Cities coalitions bring together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to deploy alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and new transportation technologies as they emerge. For further details, visit [vacleancities.org](http://vacleancities.org).

## 2014 Virginia Motor Trend International Auto Show

The Motor Trend Auto Show series will head to Richmond from March 21st through March 23rd 2014 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. You'll be able to check out the latest and greatest vehicles from all of the big manufacturers including the newest models featuring alternative fuel and advanced technology.

Admission for adults will be \$10, with discounts offered to senior citizens, active military, and children. All attendees will receive the free gift of a 12-month subscription to *Motor Trend Magazine*, and a free Motor Trend Auto Shows app will be available for visitors to use before, during, and even after their auto show visit.

For more information, visit [www.motortrendautoshow.com](http://www.motortrendautoshow.com).

## EPA Offering Construction Equipment Rebate

EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign opened a new rebate program on November 20, 2013. This round of rebates focuses on the retrofit and replacement of non-road construction equipment engines in both public and private fleets. The total funding for this opportunity is approximately \$2 million. To learn more about the rebate program, applicant and location eligibility, technology options, and selection process, please visit EPA's DERA Construction Rebate website.

EPA will collect rebate applications from November 20, 2013, to January 15, 2014. Applicants may submit only one application for up to five pieces of equipment and up to \$120,000 in rebate funds. Applications may be downloaded from the website.

For more information about the program and how to apply, visit the [Construction Rebate webpage](#) to register.

## Norfolk Amtrak Station Opens

On Monday, December 2nd, Norfolk mayor Paul Fraim and Public Transportation Director Thelma Drake cut ribbon to open the city's new Amtrak station. The station is located on Park Avenue in Harbor Park Lot D.

The City invested \$3.7 million to build the 3400 square-foot facility which features vaulted ceilings, a covered platform, and spacious waiting areas. The new station will service Amtrak trains to Petersburg, Richmond, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. In addition, local customers will be able to use the station to travel between Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Newport News.



# EPA and DOE Release Annual Fuel Economy Guide with 2014 Models

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) released the 2014 Fuel Economy Guide, providing consumers with a valuable resource to identify and choose the most fuel efficient and low greenhouse gas emitting vehicles that meet their needs. The 2014 models include efficient and low-emission vehicles in a variety of classes and sizes, ensuring a wide variety of choices available for consumers.



"For American families, the financial and environmental bottom line are high priorities when shopping for a new vehicle," said Administrator Gina McCarthy. "This year's guide is not just about how the latest models stack up against each other; it's about providing people the best information possible to make smart decisions affecting their pocketbooks and the planet."

The guide provides "Top Ten" lists allowing consumers to see the most efficient advanced technology vehicles as well as the most efficient gasoline and diesel powered vehicles. Consumers will also find a broad range of information in the guide that can be helpful while shopping for a new vehicle— including an estimated annual fuel cost for each vehicle. The estimate is based on the vehicle's miles per gallon (mpg) rating and national estimates for annual mileage and fuel prices. An online version of the guide, available through [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov), allows consumers to enter local gasoline prices and typical driving habits to receive a personalized fuel cost estimate. Also, for the second consecutive year, the guide includes a 1-10 greenhouse gas rating for each model, providing a quick and easy way for consumers to identify vehicles with low greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA fuel economy estimates are the best way to compare the fuel economy among vehicles. Official fuel economy testing is controlled, repeatable, and accounts for a variety of real-world conditions for the average driver, like air conditioning usage and a variety of speed and temperature conditions. Individual mileage will vary depending on factors such as driving style, high air conditioning usage, carrying extra weight and towing, and weather.

For tips on more efficient driving check out the gas mileage tips at <http://fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtml>.



## First Piedmont CNG Station Opens

In December, First Piedmont -- a waste removal company -- unveiled its new CNG trash trucks and natural gas fuel station in Danville, Virginia. The company invested \$2 million for the fuel station and \$1.6 million for six trucks, but, since the cost of natural gas is \$1.81 per GGE compared to diesel fuel that is approximately \$3.60 per gallon, the company expects to recover its investment quickly.



The station was designed and installed by Go Natural Gas. First Piedmont has about 75 trucks, and they hope to eventually move their entire fleet to the newer CNG trucks.

To learn more about CNG, visit [vacleancities.org](http://vacleancities.org).

## Work Truck Show Clean Cities Special Offer

VCC would like to share a special offer from the NTEA for the [Work Truck Show and Green Truck Summit 2014](#) with our stakeholders. Next year's show will take place from March 4-7, 2014 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, IN. The Green Truck Summit will be on the 4th and 5th, followed by the Work Truck Show on the 5th through the 7th.

The events will feature over 500,000 square feet of vocational trucks and equipment, the newest products and technical support from more than 500 exhibitors, and more than 60 educational sessions on top-of-mind industry issues.

The NTEA is offering Clean Cities coalitions and their stakeholders free entry to the Work Truck Show, and exclusive pricing from the Green Truck Summit.

To learn more or to get the Work Truck Show free pass, please contact Ryan Cornett at [rcornett@vacleancities.org](mailto:rcornett@vacleancities.org).

## Harrisonburg Stakeholder Lunch

Virginia Clean Cities will be holding a Stakeholder Lunch on February 3rd, 2014 from 12-1pm in Harrisonburg, VA. This lunch will be held at Wood Grill Buffet located at 1711 Reservoir St. Don't miss this opportunity to network and collaborate with fellow stakeholders in the Shenandoah Valley!

The agenda will be open format to cover fleet and stakeholder questions. Member stakeholders will be recognized and will be welcome to provide comments or display technologies. We will cover a range of questions and topics. In addition, alternative fuels demonstration vehicles and equipment as well as information about fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure will be available.

For more information, contact Ryan Cornett at [rcornett@vacleancities.org](mailto:rcornett@vacleancities.org).

## Charlottesville Mini-Grant Program

The City of Charlottesville has partnered with Virginia Clean Cities to establish a Green City Initiatives fund that will sponsor sustainability-related demonstration projects and initiatives that promote and support Charlottesville's Green City Vision. The initiative supports the development of a publicly accessible electric vehicle charging network.

The initiative is in line with the City of Charlottesville's efforts to increase both its environmental and economic sustainability. \$50,000 would be allocated for grants approved property owners who submit an application. Upon completion of the project, the property owner will submit final documentation along with a completed project cover sheet. The mini-grant will fund up to a minimum of 7 awards at up to \$3,000 for Level II and Level I charging stations, and a minimum of 3 awards up to \$7,000 for DC Fast Charge stations.



As the initial event of this effort, the City of Charlottesville and VCC hosted the Charlottesville Electric Vehicle Charging Network Information Exchange in September.

The event brought together local property owners and two panels of industry experts who presented an EV charger overview, installation success stories, insight into time-sensitive federal tax credit opportunities, real-life data on charger station usage, and the range of options for rates, equipment, and management.

## Richmond EV Training

In October, Virginia Clean Cities hosted a free Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Safety for Emergency Responders course made possible through the Advancing Alternative Fuel Markets Adoption and Growth Project in collaboration with Virginia Clean Cities, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition and Maryland Clean Cities. The course was part of an annual training weekend for first responders coordinated by partners including Virginia Department of Fire Programs, Reynolds Community College, Goochland Fire - Rescue and Old Dominion EMS Alliance.



The course, Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Safety for Emergency Responders, was developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It served to teach participants to differentiate between myths and reality with regard to hybrid electric vehicle, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle and electric vehicle safety concerns.

The course provided all first responders from across Virginia with the information necessary to respond to emergency situations involving all electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles on the road today.

## New and Renewing Stakeholders



**First Piedmont Corporation** is a full service waste management company. First Piedmont has earned a reputation for providing safe, reliable, and economical waste hauling, disposal, and recycling services. First Piedmont's philosophy is to meet the needs of our customers by using the most environmentally sound method available.

WARREN ENERGY LLC



**Warren Energy** provides expertise in the transportation fuel and energy sectors.

**Virginia Oil and Gas Association** is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of companies, partnerships, individuals or other entities having an interest in the oil and gas industry and who are primarily engaged in the exploration, production, development, transportation and distribution of natural gas and oil in Virginia.



**Jones and Frank** has emerged as a leader in alternative fuels by providing solutions to the questions surrounding this technology. The company seeks out and partners with the best manufacturers of innovative components and systems.



**City of Richmond** is a leader in alternative fuel deployment. The City's Department of Public Utilities has several natural gas refuse haulers in service, and the City supports efforts to educate other municipalities about the advantages of alternative fuels.

*If you are considering becoming a stakeholder, please visit our membership page at [www.vacleancities.org/get-involved/join-us/](http://www.vacleancities.org/get-involved/join-us/).*

## Upcoming Events

- 1/7- Propane Stakeholder Call (Transit Focus)
- 2/3- Stakeholder Lunch, Harrisonburg, VA
- 2/10-12- Propane Vehicle Training, Richmond, VA
- 2/11- CNG Stakeholder Call
- 3/4-7- Work Truck Show, Indianapolis, IN
- 3/11-13- DEQ Environmental Excellence Conference, Richmond, VA
- 3/21-23- Virginia International Auto Show, Richmond, VA

*Please visit [www.vacleancities.org](http://www.vacleancities.org) for the latest information about all Virginia Clean Cities events.*

## Contact Us

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