Clean Cities Hits Major Reduction Milestone

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Clean Cities program reached a major petroleum-reduction milestone—reducing one billion gallons in 2013 alone. Clean Cities is on track to meet its petroleum-reduction goal of 2.5 billion gallons a year by 2020.

Virginia Clean Cities has been a key contributor to the program’s mission in Virginia since its founding in 1996. VCC has actively helped deploy propane, natural gas, clean diesel, hybrid and electric vehicles as well as infrastructure for alternative fuels throughout the Commonwealth. VCC has also played a significant role in educating Virginians about the reliability and affordability of alternative fuels and vehicles.

Reducing America’s oil dependency and our transportation system’s environmental footprint are at the heart of Clean Cities’ efforts. Nationwide, Clean Cities and its stakeholders prevented the production of 7.5 million tons of greenhouse gases in 2013. This is equivalent to removing more than 1.5 million cars from the road. Virginia Clean Cities and its stakeholders have led the charge in Virginia, saving 13,815,877 gallons of petroleum in 2013 alone.

“From 15 million gallons in its first year to a cumulative 6.4 billion through 2013, Clean Cities is shifting transportation away from petroleum—one vehicle, fleet, and community at a time,” said Clean Cities National Director Dennis Smith. “The collaborations and relationships that local coalitions create are key to our national success.”
PERC Doubles Rebate for Propane Lawn Mowers

On October 1st, the Propane Energy Research Council announced that it has doubled its original incentive for the purchase of propane-fueled lawn mowers from $1,000 to $2,000. To receive this rebate the mower must be purchased by December 31, 2014. The purchaser must also provide PERC with feedback on performance data for one mowing season.

Propane-fueled lawn mowers offer numerous advantages over the traditional gasoline-powered mowers. These include lower operating costs due to cheaper fuel, fewer emissions, easy re-fueling, and reduced spillage and downtime.

For more information, please visit the PERC Incentive Program.

Appalachian Biofuels to Build New Biodiesel Facility in Russell County

Governor Terry McAuliffe announced on October 29th that Appalachian Biofuels LLC will invest $3.5 million to establish its headquarters and 28 million gallon capacity enzymatic biodiesel production facility in Russell County, VA. Appalachian Biofuels is a new company that will process multiple waste feedstock material and refine it using an enzyme, to produce biodiesel.

Chuck Lessin, President and CEO of Appalachian Biofuels LLC added, “This revolutionary process will allow us to use the many tools, information and human resources that the Commonwealth has available. We are proud to be hiring former coal miners in the region who will transfer their significant experience in mining energy underground to our new green energy above ground in beautiful Russell County.”

The Virginia Energy Plan is Now Available Online

The 2014 Virginia Energy Plan is intended to provide a strategic vision for energy policy in the Commonwealth. This plan was developed through public meetings with citizens in each region of the Commonwealth.

The 2014 Virginia Energy Plan has been constructed to provide a comprehensive view of where Virginia has been and currently is in terms of its energy assets, and it charts a path forward for energy policy in the Commonwealth. To view this plan please visit http://dmme.virginia.gov/DE/2014_VirginiaEnergyPlan2.shtml

Save the Date! ACT Expo in Dallas on May 4-7, 2015

Mark your calendars for the Alternative Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo on May 4-7, 2015 in Dallas, Texas.

Now in its fifth year, ACT Expo is the world’s largest and most comprehensive event dedicated to displaying all alternative fuels, advanced clean vehicles & technology while providing strong educational value and positive results for fleet professionals and industry stakeholders looking to make investments in these alternative opportunities. Please contact VCC for discount codes.

As the premier event for the industry, ACT Expo brings together the only “all-in-one” venue showcasing the largest gathering of leading solution providers in alternative fuels and clean transportation today. For more information please visit www.actexpo.com.
BMW Set to Triple Carbon-Fiber Production

BMW has announced it will triple its production of carbon-fiber frames for use in its vehicles to 9,000 tons per year. Carbon-fiber is a corrosion-free material that is as strong as steel but at half the weight. It is currently used in the manufacturing of airplanes.

Carbon-fiber frames may enable BMW and other automakers to improve vehicle mileage per gallon simply by reducing the weight of the vehicle.

A drawback to carbon-fiber is that it is more expensive and takes longer to produce than steel. Research is currently underway at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to find ways to make carbon fiber cheaper and easier to produce.

InMotion to Open Electric Motor Facility in Blacksburg

An Italian autoparts maker announced in October that it will be opening its first U.S. electric motor manufacturing facility in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Zapi S.p.A. recently purchased InMotion and is moving the company from Radford to the Technology Manufacturing Building near Virginia Tech’s Transportation Institute. InMotion builds parts for electric and hybrid vehicles, lift trucks, personal mobility devices, elevators, buses, and refrigeration systems.

Alliance Autogas Announces Opening of Research & Technology Center

On October 19th, Blossman and Alliance Autogas announced the opening of their world-class Autogas Research & Technology Center in Asheville, North Carolina.

The 6,225 square foot Autogas Research and Technology Center will focus on the development of alternative fueled engines. In addition, it will be available to Alliance AutoGas fleet managers and certified conversion centers across the United States and Canada for training and educational opportunities. This will be a one-of–a-kind facility for Alliance AutoGas and Blossman Services to develop alternative fuel systems for vehicles.

The Center will produce all of its power on-site –40% from solar and 60% from propane.
**VCC News**

The 2015 Annual Operating Plan is Now Available

Virginia Clean Cities five major goals for 2015 are:
1. Improve Virginia’s air quality by increasing the reduction in petroleum usage to 16,500,000 equivalent gasoline gallons.
2. Hold events and raise awareness to reduce barriers to alternative fuels.
3. Serve in a leadership role for Virginia’s alternative fuel policies and deployment.
4. Remain financially stable.
5. Enhance internal operational capacity to promote organizational growth and development.

**Upcoming Events**

11/7/14 - Roanoke Green Living Expo, Roanoke, VA
11/9/14 - Virginia Association of Counties Annual Conference, Bath County, VA
11/11/14 - North American NGV Conference, Kansas City, MO
11/20/14 - Mid-Atlantic Alternative Fuels Roadshow, Richmond, VA
11/21/14 - Mid-Atlantic Alternative Fuels Roadshow, Chesapeake, VA
12/4/14 - December Stakeholder Luncheon, Capital Ale House in Richmond, VA
3/4/15 - Work Truck Show, Indianapolis, IN
3/26/15 - 2nd Annual Rally at the Raceway, Richmond, VA
5/19/15 - Electric Drive Transportation Association Conference, Indianapolis, IN

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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Virginia Clean Cities counts on a diverse membership base to facilitate our mission. 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).

Thank You to Our New and Renewing Stakeholders!

**UPS & Partnership for Clean Transportation**

is reducing petroleum use and emissions through route planning, fuel efficiency measures, and alternative fuel use. Nationwide, UPS has 2,700 CNG, LNG, LPG, electric, and hybrid electric vehicles and is a National Clean Fleet Partner of the Clean Cities Program.

**City of Charlottesville** is committed to the use of gas-electric hybrid vehicles and compressed natural gas, as well as the exploration of cleaner burning alternative fuels.

**Wholesome Energy** is an affiliate of Wholesome Foods, Inc. Wholesome is now a fabricator and distributor of the Nonox Emulsion Combustion Technology.

**NGV Motori** provides solutions for natural gas conversions. From prototyping to certifications, to after market servicing, NGV Motori is a worldwide leader.

**Clean Energy** is more than just fuel. Clean Energy provide complete fueling solutions and is an industry leader that has paved the way in new fueling equipment technologies.

**Fuji Electric, Corp.** offers DC Quick Charging Stations for commercial applications such as restaurants, hotels, and retail stores.

**Sonny Merryman, Inc.** is a premier Thomas Built, MyBus, El Dorado Coach, Startrans and Braun dealer throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Many Virginia localities and agencies depend on Sonny Merryman for transit and shuttle buses.

**City of Petersburg** is proactively engaged in improving air quality through deploying alternative fuels in their municipal fleet.