

Central Texas Clean Cities

Advancing the use of alternative fuels to
decrease our dependence on foreign oil



The annual Clean Cities survey is under way

It's time for the 2012 annual DOE Clean Cities stakeholder survey. By filling out the survey, you can help us measure our progress towards our goal of reducing Central Texas' dependence on foreign oil.

With the New Year under way, and following a checklist sent to stakeholders after Thanksgiving, the annual Clean cities survey is now live and stakeholder submissions will be accepted until March 1, 2012.

Each year, all Clean Cities stakeholders are asked to participate in the survey, which catalogues coalition progress from the previous year. This comprehensive tool is used by the DOE to measure the annual successes of Clean Cities programs across the country.

In 2011, the survey results played a vital role in saving the Clean Cities program after the Department of Energy's Clean Cities budget was substantially reduced. Those cuts resulted in 2012 budget cuts of 50%

or more to each coalition, but the survey was the single most valuable indication used by Washington to show the effect our program has on decreasing our dependence on foreign oil.

The DOE Clean Cities goal is to decrease annual petroleum consumption in the U.S. by 2.5 billion gallons by 2020. Individual coalitions are charged with reducing the use of petroleum fuel by 17% over the previous year. Last year, CTCC ranked 7th overall with a 521% increase in alternative fuel consumption. This was primarily due to the City of Austin's use of e85, and over 1 million gge of B20, plus increased stakeholder interest in CNG, propane and electric. When stakeholders participate, the survey



reflects our successes in the areas of alternative fuels and vehicles, idle reduction strategies, and other vehicle technology efforts.

Before starting the survey, it is highly recommended that all stakeholders first review the CTCC checklist designed to help gather accurate information to answer the survey's questions. This is not a quick 5-minute survey, so stakeholders should be prepared to invest some time to carefully review their 2011 accomplishments. Each survey is carefully calculated to prove the coalition's collective efforts and stakeholder's individual successes. The survey can be found at the DOE website [by clicking here](#). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Geoffrey DeCanio.



FLEET WATCH: APD

Fleet Watch: The Austin Police Department has installed anti idling technologies from Energy Extreme in 80 of its squad cars, with more to come. Energy Extreme, a Central Texas Clean Cities stakeholder since 2002, installed power systems which allow the department's patrol cars to use all of the gadgets and equipment their officers need without running their engines. With these systems, APD's equipment will be powered for up to 4 hours after a driver turns off the engine.

New electric bike shop opens on East Riverside

Rocket Electrics, Austin's newest electric bike store, has opened on the shores of Lady Bird Lake. They offer a range of electric bikes including products to add an electric motor to the bicycle you already own. Many of Rocket Electrics' accessories are made in the USA and some of their bikes are made locally by Austin and Central Texas based companies. Not only does Rocket have the latest cool bike accessories, they also have a nifty track to test ride their bikes. Rocket plans to host electric bike tours on Austin's 6th St and other downtown sights.

Bike enthusiasts and the simply curious alike will find something to pique

their interest at Rocket. Bikes range in power and battery size so people of all sizes can be confident to find a bike that suits them (a relief for parents who don't want their children treating their Rocket bike like a motorcycle and big & tall men who need something with a little extra power). Rocket also carries a type of trailer attachment which safely and professionally adds a motor to the back of a conventional bicycle.

Rocket Electrics is our latest stakeholder. They join several other CTCC stakeholders and will participate in the "Plug In Your Wheels" electric bike, motorcycle, scooter

incentive program with CTCC.

Rocket Electrics is located at 1608 E Riverside on the ground floor of the Emli building. To celebrate their opening, Rocket is hosting a raffle for a 500 watt Pedego Classic Cruiser, with all proceeds going to Austin's own "Please Be Kind to Cyclists". The winner will be announced on the birthday of Alessandro Volta, inventor of the battery, on February 18, 2012. They are open Monday through Sunday, 11 am to 7 pm.



Biodiesel roadshow to discuss RSF2, Texas regulatory climate



On Tuesday, January 17, Central Texas Clean Cities and the Renewable Energy Group will be hosting a biodiesel seminar at the Embassy Suites Hotel in central Austin. The purpose of the seminar is to discuss the changing biodiesel market both in Texas and nationally. Topics include:

* Texas biodiesel blending regulations opening up - January 2012 is set to mark a shift in the Texas biodiesel industry as TCEQ regulations will shift to make blending easier.

* The federal blenders tax credit - By mid-January the RINs market will adjust should a legislative lapse of this tax credit occur. This topic will be a key focus of the seminar.

* RSF2 - The 2nd year of the RFS2 brings a 1 billion required volume obligation. Jobbers and obligated parties left 2011 with concerns about RINs and the future of the RFS2. The workshop will outline the 2012 federal biodiesel market outlook.

* NOx emissions and the new Texas standard.

The seminar will contain important information for agencies and fleets charged with decreasing their petroleum consumption and reducing their emissions, fuel purchaser and your petroleum distributor. Please see the sidebar for more detailed information on the time, location and schedule. [Register online here](#) and feel free to tell any interested parties.

EPA announces 2012 renewable fuel volumes

The Environmental Protection Agency finalized the 2012 percentage standards for four fuel categories that are part of the Renewable Fuel Standard program (RFS2) on December 27, 2011. The RFS2 program was created by The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) to set annual renewable fuel requirements, which will increase to a 36 billion gallons in 2022. Today 36 billion gallons would equal about 25% of the country's annual fuel needs.

To achieve this goal, the agency calculates a percentage-based standard every calendar year. One

number noticeably lower than its EISA mandate is cellulosic biofuels. EPA is proposing a 2012 cellulosic volume of 8.65 million gallons -- far lower than the 500 million gallon target. EPA said it will continue to evaluate the market as it works to finalize the cellulosic standard in the coming months. Each refiner and importer will determine the amount of renewable fuel that it must include in its transportation fuel based on this standard to stay in compliance.

In spring 2011 the EPA proposed a volume requirement of 1.28 billion gallons for biomass-based diesel for 2013, nearly a

third of a billion gallons over the EISA 2013 requirement for that fuel category for 2013. EISA specifies a one billion gallon minimum requirement for that category after 2012, but allows the agency to increase the requirement. The agency says it has not yet finished evaluating stakeholder comments on those figures, even

though the EPA is required to set its volume no later than 14 months before the start of that year. A final rule setting those volumes is expected some time next year. Overall the RFS2 program encourages greater use of renewable fuels, including advanced biofuels. For 2012, the country will blend more than 1.25 billion gallons of renewable fuels over the amount 2011 mandate.

2012 EPA renewable fuel volumes		
Biomass-based diesel	1.0 billion gallons	0.91%
Advanced biofuels	2.0 billion gallons	1.21%
Cellulosic biofuels	8.65 million gallons	0.006 %
Total renewable fuels	15.2 billion gallons	9.23 %

New propane station opens in Williamson County

January 5, 2012 Williamson County celebrated the opening of its newest propane fueling station with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The station is located at the J.B. & Hallie Jester County Annex at 1781 E. Old Settlers Blvd. in Round Rock and will service the County's growing propane powered fleet.

Williamson County pursued and received grants to fund the conversion of selected County vehicles and the construction of

propane fueling sites. The county currently has 24 propane-fueled vehicles in operation and will have approximately 31 when all the conversions are completed. Other County fueling stations are also located in Georgetown, Cedar Park, Florence, Taylor and Granger. These sites are not open to the general public. During the last 12 months the average price of gasoline to

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Meet CTCC intern Geoff DeCanio

Geoffrey DeCanio is a communications and graphic design intern at Central Texas Clean Cities. He has written for The Texas Observer in Austin and California Watch in Berkeley, California. He worked for the City of Austin's Public Information Office while working towards his master's degree in journalism at the University of Texas. Prior to that, he worked for various nonprofit organizations and as a radio DJ in Houston and College Station, Texas. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Texas A&M University.

Clean Energy gets another \$150 million investment

From the NGVAmerica Jan. 2012 newsletter. [Click here for more.](#)

Clean Energy Fuels Corp. has announced that company investors, including Clean Fuels chairman and founder T. Boone Pickens, have invested another \$150 million into the company in late December 2011.

This brings the total investor capital into Clean Fuels in 2011 to \$450 million.

This most recent investment was due to the exercise of Pickens' warrants to purchase 15 million shares of the company's common stock at \$10 per share.

Clean Energy has a significant program underway, named "America's Natural Gas Highway initiative," that is expanding its natural gas fueling infrastructure at fueling stations serving fleets in the longhaul, regional and port trucking markets, as well as for solid waste, transit, airport and municipal transportation nationwide.

This capital will be used in part for the development, construction and operation of these stations and the related support, management, maintenance and marketing of them, including the development, construction and operation of offloading facilities, related production assets and delivery trucks.

DFW airport OKs priority for NGV Cabs -- again

From the NGVAmerica Jan. 2012 newsletter. [Click here for more.](#)

On Thursday, the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport board approved an incentive program to allow taxicabs that use CNG to jump to the front of the line.

This marks the second time that airport officials have tried to enforce the privilege.

The previous attempt, in 2009, was held up for more than a year by legal challenges from drivers. In October, a temporary restraining order preventing the policy was dissolved, allowing the airport to move forward.

It is estimated that, with this new policy, CNG cabs could

get 10 to 12 trips out of the airport each day while a regular cab may get 2 to 3.

Of the 2,000 cabs licensed to operate at the airport, 137 use CNG.

By offering an incentive to drivers to convert, the airport hopes to reduce emissions. "All we're trying to do is clean the air up," said airport spokesman David Magaña, adding that the airport has had a clean-air policy since 2000 and has more than 600 CNG buses, trucks and cars in its fleet. The program has no start date.

Williamson propane station (cont.)

Williamson County was \$3.15 per gallon and the average price of propane for the same time period was \$1.82. In addition, the County will be eligible for a \$0.50 cent per gallon federal tax credit upon completion of all fueling stations, making the cost of propane \$1.36 per gallon.

Propane is 97 percent North American sourced, with one third of the propane

supply being produced here in Texas. Williamson County Fleet Services anticipates a projected yearly fuel savings of \$61,000. Benefits of propane include the reduced emissions, reduced cost of fuel and reduced maintenance.

Williamson County is a long time stakeholder and supporter of Central Texas Clean Cities and the Clean Air Force of Central Texas.



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January 2012
Happy New Year to all!

Dear Stakeholders,

The past several months has seen the CTCC office in a transition. Housed by Austin Energy for 7 years, (the last 4 years in the Climate Protection program), it was determined that CTCC would benefit more by re-locating to the City of Austin's Transportation Dept. Strategic Planning group. We are off to a great start in our new "home".

Last summer, the Dept. of Energy's Clean Cities program was close to becoming history, but, proof of our collective importance was realized through the 2010 survey. Rather than being cut completely, all 87 coalitions received a 50% cut in annual DOE programmatic assistance.

For CTCC, it means we have only \$25,000 to operate in 2012. In 2011, Central Texas stakeholders were well represented through our social media, frequent workshops, road shows, our survey, and other support roles to the DOE. Losing 50% of our resources means stakeholders could see a decrease in services, fewer educational events, and we will continue to be understaffed.

On a more positive note, there are a lot of positive things happening with our stakeholders! The survey is coming up and that is very important. We have a biodiesel workshop, a CNG follow up meeting, and a fuel consortium planning meeting all in January. In February, we are hosting a LPG Roadshow to the Temple area, with a second Roadshow to Tyler in the first quarter. And I plan to attend the Green Truck Summit in Indianapolis in early March.

I will continue to represent Central Texas and the great influence of our stakeholders. I will continue to promote the public private partnerships necessary to meet state and federal mandates; to decrease petroleum use in the transportation sector; prepare for our re-designation as Clean Cities Coalition (in October 2012), and grow into a self sustaining coalition.

Again, Happy New Year to all of you and as always, thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Stacy Neef, coordinator,
Clean Cities Central Texas

TERP updates

New ERIG & rebate grant rounds are expected to open in 2012

All CTCC stakeholders should be aware that 2012 will bring new financial incentives from the State of Texas on a first come, first served basis for many of the activities outlined in the 2012 Annual Survey (if you missed that story, now is the time to go take a look at page 1). The TERP program provides financial incentives to eligible individuals, businesses or local governments to reduce emissions from polluting vehicles and equipment.

The ERIG program offers grants to upgrade or replace on-road vehicles, non-road equipment, locomotives, marine vessels,†stationary equipment, refueling infrastructure, on-site electrification and idle reduction infrastructure, on-vehicle electrification and idle reduction infrastructure, and rail relocation and improvement†projects. The Rebate Grants program is a simplified first-come, first-serve grant program to upgrade or replace diesel heavy-duty vehicles and/or non-road equipment.

If you have any questions on the grant application process or need a hard copy of the application forms mailed to you, contact the TERP office toll-free at

800-919-TERP (8377) or visit the TERP website at: <http://www.terpgrants.org/>.

For questions regarding the TERP grant program please contact TCEQ at:

Main Local Number: (512) 239-4950
Toll Free: 1 (800) 919-TERP (8377)
Fax: (512) 239-0077,
Attn: TERP Program
E-Mail: terp@tceq.state.tx.us

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Upcoming events

Jan 9, 2012:

The annual Clean Cities survey goes online. You can access the survey [by clicking here](#). Submissions are accepted until March, 2012

Jan 17, 2012:

The Renewable Energy Group and Central Texas Clean Cities host a biodiesel seminar at the Central Austin Embassy Suites hotel. [Click here to register](#).

Jan 23-24, 2012:

2012 Energy Investment Forum at the Hyatt Regency Austin. [Click here to register](#).

Jan 23-24, 2012:

Natural gas vehicle and infrastructure conference and exhibition in Houston organized by FC Business Intelligence. [Click here to register](#).

Feb 1, 2012:

CleanFuel USA grand opening. Respond to crystelle@cleanfuel-susa.com by January 27 for more info and to RSVP

Feb 7, 2012:

LPG roadshow in Temple, Texas. See the Central Texas Clean Cities web page for more details

March 1, 2012:

Clean Cities surveys due.

March 5-6, 2012:

Green truck summit in Indianapolis IN. [Click here for more details and to register](#).

May 6-9, 2012:

The Electric Drive Transportation Association will host the 26th International Electric Vehicle Symposium in Los Angeles, California. [Click here to register](#).

June 8-9, 2012:

Heart of Texas Green Expo in Bastrop, Texas. [Click here for more info](#).