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Granite State Clean Cities Coalition “Energy Independence Summit 2016”

The Granite State Clean Cities Coalition (GSCCC), hosted by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), seeks to improve air quality and foster economic development in New Hampshire through partnerships and projects that reduce petroleum use in transportation. GSCCC’s 120 stakeholders include utilities, universities, municipalities, vehicle manufacturers and vehicle fuel conversion companies, fuel providers, non-profits, and fleet managers of local and national businesses.

Through various petroleum reduction strategies, Coalition members have collectively reduced their use of petroleum by over 1.7 million gallons annually, which retains about \$3.4 million in our state’s economy¹. That’s the equivalent of taking 3400 cars off the road for a year!

The Coalition educates fleet managers and consumers on the environmental and economic benefits of reducing petroleum consumption in transportation through quarterly stakeholder meetings, the biennial Green Your Fleet! conference and stakeholder workgroups. The workgroups focus on removing barriers to the adoption of alternative fuels like compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, biodiesel and electricity.

GSCCC is one of nearly 90 Clean Cities Coalitions nationwide and is supported in part by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Clean Cities program, which provides monetary support and serves as a technical resource for vehicle, fuel, and supporting infrastructure technology.

Projects and Activities

• **CNG and Propane**

- **Clean Energy Fuels.** Clean Energy Fuels’ public access CNG fueling station in Pembroke continues to provide CNG fueling to area fleets (including the State’s fleet), as well as filling trailers for its subsidiary NG Advantage. This venture allows large facilities “off pipeline,” like Pike Industries in Lebanon and APC Paper in Claremont, to operate industrial machinery with clean, efficient natural gas.
- **Liberty Utilities.** Electric and natural gas company Liberty Utilities has taken the lead in the promotion of clean energy in our state. In partnership with iNATGAS, the company has begun construction on a large scale CNG station in Concord, located next to LU's new training center. When completed the public access station will provide CNG fueling to area fleets and CNG in bulk for off pipeline industrial customers in New Hampshire and beyond. The company plans a conversion of the City of Keene LPG system to a CNG based natural gas distribution system to help meet that area’s energy needs.
- **UNH and City of Nashua** have increased the number of vehicles in their natural gas fleets with UNH adding three and Nashua expecting delivery of eight full size CNG buses.

¹ Estimated cost of fuel: \$2 per gallon.

- **Conval School District.** This school district recently started transporting its students in new buses that run on clean burning propane. The district's contracted bus company, Student Transport of America, purchased 44 new buses for the Peterborough area, and students, parents and drivers are pleased with the change. Merrimack Valley and SAU #6 school districts also added propane buses to their fleets.
- **Eastern Propane.** The number of propane-fueled vehicles operated by propane distributors is increasing, with Eastern Propane taking the lead. The family-owned Rochester based company operates over 50 propane-fueled trucks, vans and bob-tails. D.F. Richard, Proulx Oil and Propane, and Palmer Gas also recently purchased fleet vehicles that run on propane.
- **Biodiesel**
 - **White Mountain Biodiesel LLC.** White Mountain Biodiesel, North Haverhill continues to grow. The company is in the process of expanding.
 - **Biodiesel fleets.** Oakhurst Dairy, Cities of Keene and Portsmouth, UNH, Eversource and Oyster River School District are among many NH fleets that use biodiesel in a 20% blend year round (biodiesel 20%/petroleum diesel 80%), reducing their fleet's dependency on petroleum.
- **Electric**
 - **City of Keene, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Mt. Washington Observatory, and Town of Durham** are receiving grants for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. Funds are provided by DOE through the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning.
 - **Liberty Utilities.** LU recently filed a tariff amendment with NH Public Utilities to permit the resale of electricity for electric vehicle charging stations. They encourage their business customers to install electric vehicle charging stations.
- **Diesel Emissions**
 - **Support for emission reduction.** Using federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act funds (DERA), NHDES supported the purchase of newer school buses to replace older, polluting buses in 2015 for The Provider Enterprises and Oyster River School District. This program has helped to take dozens of older diesel vehicles off New Hampshire roads over the years. There are 2016 DERA funds now available.

Events

- **Green Your Fleet! Petroleum Reduction Workshop.** This year's Green Your Fleet! workshop will be held on Friday, June 3rd at Manchester Community College. The GSCCC event attracts over 150 fleet managers, business owners and individuals from New Hampshire and beyond. A large number of alternative fuel vehicles will be available for viewing. Attendees can peruse exhibits and hear testimony from local fleet managers. Panel discussions and presentations provide information on how to take petroleum reduction practices to the next step. Registration is free and open to the public.
- **Drive Electric Week/AltWheels Fleet Day.** Autumn brings two "green vehicle" events to the area. GSCCC, in partnership with Sierra Club, coordinates "New Hampshire Celebrates National Drive Electric Week" during a week of national celebration. Hundreds of spectators and dozens of electric vehicles join in. The Coalition also cohosts the annual AltWheels Fleet Day, held in Norwood, MA. Closer to home, GSCCC hosts stakeholder meeting which feature exciting topics and knowledgeable speakers. All meetings are open to the public, well attended and often include facility tours and opportunities to test drive alternative fuel vehicles.