

*Your clearinghouse for news, programs, and funding related to reducing the consumption of petroleum for transportation in Vermont.*

Clean Cities is a national program, coordinated by local coalitions in states and large cities, committed to advancing "the economic, environmental and energy security of the U.S." through cutting back on "*petroleum consumption in the transportation sector*". [More at the [Clean Cities](#) website].

#### Weekly Petro-Stats

	Gas at the pump, VT [compiled from <a href="#">gasbuddy.com</a> ]	Crude oil futures [compiled from <a href="#">nymex.com</a> ]
This week (Nov 22-28)	\$2.248/gallon	\$60.183/barrel
Last week (Nov 15-21)	\$2.216/gallon	\$56.943/barrel
2 weeks ago (Nov 8-14)	\$2.188/gallon	\$59.488/barrel

#### NEWS & INFO BY SECTOR

- Fuels
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- Hybrids
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- No Idling
  - PSA's on the air

#### ON THE HORIZON

- Policy Watch
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- Funding Opportunities

#### • Fuels: Cellulosic ethanol

Broin Companies of Emmetsburg, Iowa plans to develop the United States' first cellulosic ethanol (ethanol made using predominantly plant material and agricultural wastes such as corn stalks) bio refinery. Broin Company predicts that Voyager Ethanol will be converted from a 50 million gallon per year conventional corn dry mill facility into a 125 million gallon per year commercial scale ethanol bio refinery. The people at Broin feel that this is a very important step in the movement away from our nation's dependence on oil. There are currently 56 construction projects underway that will add more than 3.8 billion gallons of new ethanol production capacity in the next 18 months to the already 5.1 billion gallons of production already up and running. This project however is the largest and only of its kind, as the bio refinery will be designed to "utilize advanced corn fractionation and lignocellulosic conversion technologies to produce ethanol from corn fiber and corn stover." If production is as successful as predicted Ethanol may hit the market running. [Source: [Renewable Fuels Association](#)]

#### • Hybrids: Attention hybrid buyers

Something to keep in mind for hybrid buyers...if you want to claim a tax credit for purchasing a Toyota hybrid, you'll have to purchase a 2007 model year vehicle. Tax credits are no longer given for 2006 Toyota hybrid vehicles because they hit the 60,000 marker in these sales. However, tax breaks can still be applied to purchases of 2006 Honda and GM hybrids. Honda has sold 28,408 hybrids of the 2006 model year as of September 30<sup>th</sup> and GM has sold significantly less, amounting to only 2,200 2006 model hybrids sold as of the quarter's end (9/30/06). Consequently, consumers purchasing a 2006 Honda Accord hybrid can still claim a \$1,300 tax credit, or a \$2,100 tax credit for a 2006 Honda Civic hybrid. Tax credits vary in amount, but those buying GM hybrids can receive credits around \$650.

The 2006 tax credit for Toyota hybrids ended on October 1<sup>st</sup> but will still apply to their 2007 hybrid models. [Source: [MSNBC](#)]

- **No Idling: PSA's on the air**

Idle-Free VT's anti-idling public service announcements are being heard across Central Vermont and the Champlain Valley. These radio PSA's are being broadcast on radio stations WDEV and WLBV. They can be heard [here](#). [Source: [Idle-Free VT](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Idling**

A diesel school bus and truck idling bill will be resubmitted to the VT house and senate in the upcoming session. Idle-Free VT and the American Lung Association will be among those with whom the bill sponsors will be conferring, and they welcome your ideas and suggestions. ([Click here for the text of the bill](#).) [Source: [Idle-Free VT](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Federal support for biofuels**

The White House and Capitol Hill are poised support biofuels in the coming law-making session. President Bush's 2006 State of the Union address included the goals of making cellulosic ethanol cost-competitive with other transportation fuels by 2012, and replacing 30% of the nation's annual petroleum use with biofuels by 2030. Members of Congress are already discussing new and extended tax incentives for biofuel projects, and increased funding for home-grown, cleaner-burning fuels. [Sources: [CNN](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> half of article), [Greenwire](#) (non-subscribers can [access the article here](#))]

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- Vermont Community Development Program: Fundable projects include public facilities and public services. Vermont local governments are eligible. Closes 1/30/07. [[View](#)]
- Sustainable Future Fund: Projects that help address the challenges of building a sustainable society; projects that develop models of sound ecological practice. Closes 2/1/07. [[View](#)]
- New England Grassroots Environment Fund: air quality, energy, land use, consumption, urban environment grants. Small not-for-profit organizations are eligible. Closes 1/15/07. [[View](#)]

#### **USEFUL CALENDARS**

[10% Challenge](#)

[Vermont Peak Oil Network](#)

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Best regards,  
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*[Vermont Clean Cities Coalition](#)*