

Clean Cities Vermont eNewsletter 4.11.2007

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

clean-cities@snellingcenter.org

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- **Announcement: Clean Cities Vermont Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the recent Clean Cities Vermont Stakeholders meeting are available online [here](#). An online archive of the eNewsletter is currently under development. We welcome your feedback on the eNewsletter, which you can provide quickly by taking our short online survey [here](#).

- **Fuels: Biodiesel - CCTA buses make the switch**

CCTA has begun burning B20 in its buses to lower the fleet emissions from its 55 buses. Although the biodiesel costs 15 cents more per gallon than petroleum diesel, CCTA's existing fuel budget has been able to accommodate the increase because it based its budget in part on the spike in energy costs following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- **Fuels: Hydrogen - Insights for efficiency**

A UVM research team has been exploring the promising potential for nanotechnology supplementing solar energy systems to improve the viability of a hydrogen fuel cell economy. [Source: [H₂ Daily](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Park & Ride expansion**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is proposing a budget which will enable the enlargement of two existing Park & Ride lots, construction of two new lots, and completion of another. This is part of the agency's long-term goal to double the number of park & ride spaces in the state. [Source: [WCAX](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Poultney-Rutland bus line efforts struggling**

Poultney and Marble Valley Regional Transit have been trying to find enough funds to create a connection between Poultney and Rutland, either for an entirely new line or one that extends an existing route. The

line would potentially benefit Poultney businesses, Rutland-based employees, the elderly, and the disabled. [Source: [Rutland Herlad](#)]

- **No Idling: Middle school efforts honored**

The EPA visited Brown River Middle School to commend its students for their efforts to ban schoolbus idling statewide. [Source: [VT ANR](#)]

- **No Idling: Burlington renews idle-free efforts**

The City of Burlington has put fresh efforts into its 17-year-old anti-idling ordinance. Street signs, mayoral cheerleading, and department head support are all backing up the current education campaign. The ordinance also allows a \$45 ticket for a violation. [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- **No Idling: State receives grant to counter schoolbus emissions**

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has received a \$194,494 grant from the EPA to install advanced pollution control equipment for more than two dozen school bus operators around the state. [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Vehicle emission standards lawsuit underway**

Vermont continues to make national headlines with the vehicle emission standards lawsuit brought by automakers finally underway in Burlington's federal courtrooms as of Tuesday.

The Federal Court case which pits the automakers against Vermont air pollution regulators is open to the public, thanks to the work of the Burlington Free Press and District Court Judge William Sessions. The case is expected to last about three weeks and takes place daily from 9-5. The Court is located on the 5th floor of the building on Pearl Street that houses the Burlington post office. [Source: [WCAX](#), [The Tech](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Status of "gas guzzler" fee**

The Vermont House Transportation Committee voted in favor of a \$150 one-time fee for new cars that get 20 miles per gallon or less in combined city and highway driving and trucks that get less than 17 miles per gallon, starting with 2009 models. If the house passes the bill, it will face other hurdles. The chair of the Senate Transportation Committee has critiqued the bill's impact on businesses, and Governor Douglas has also indicated his opposition.

The bill also includes appropriations for public transportation, a 2 cent/gallon rebate for biodiesel fuel, vehicle emissions labeling, and a 1% reduction in the purchase and use tax for vehicles that have a fuel economy of at least 30 miles per gallon in city driving. The bill ([H.540](#)) is currently being reviewed in House Ways and Means. [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#), [Times Argus](#), [Rutland Herald](#), [VT Legislature](#)]

- **Policy Watch: New Hampshire passes biodiesel bill**

New Hampshire House Bill 689 creates a study commission to determine how much biodiesel the state can produce, what resources exist for production, the best way to distribute the fuel, and ways to encourage biodiesel production in New Hampshire. [Source: [Portsmouth Herlad](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Farm bill testimony oppose ethanol**

Vermont farmers and agricultural officials had an opportunity to weigh in on the 2007 federal Farm Bill during a U.S. Senat field hearing held in Montpelier. Several speakers discussed the need to refocus federal energy initiatives away from ethanol production, citing its effects on dairy feed costs. [Source: [County Courier](#)]

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- Federal: Value Pricing Program participation. Governments or public authorities are eligible. Closes 4/30/07. [[View](#)]
- Federal: Congestion mitigation technologies. Governments and public sector agencies are eligible. Closes 4/30/07. [[View](#)]
- Federal: Planning flexible public transportation service strategies for rural and small, medium, and large urban transit

agencies. Closes 5/2/07. [\[View\]](#)

- Regional: Professional development programs for farmers. Pre-proposal due 5/31/07. [\[View\]](#)

- **Events**

4/19, Thu Montpelier	CCTA route public hearing Proposed 3 rd Montpelier LINK Express route. 6:30pm. Montpelier City Hall, Memorial Room. <i>Contact: 802.864.2282</i>
4/22, Sun Burlington	Clean Car (and more!) Show Alternatively fueled vehicle show. 11am-3pm. Church Street. <i>Contact: ewang@10percentchallenge.org</i>
4/24, Tue Burlington	CCTA route public hearing Proposed 3 rd Montpelier LINK Express route and changes to the Old North End Loop. 6:30pm. Burlington City Hall, Contois Auditorium. <i>Contact: 802.864.2282</i>
5/7-11 Statewide	Way to Go! Week Alternative commuting week. <i>Info: www.waytogovt.org</i>
5/12, Sat So. Burlington	Pedestrian and Bike Summit Charting the future of biking and walking in Chittenden County. 9am-12:30pm. 160 Hinesburg Road. <i>Info: www.ccmgo.gov/BikePed</i>

More event listings:

[10% Challenge](#), [Vermont Peak Oil Network](#)

- **Weekly Petro-Stats**

	Gas at the pump, VT [compiled from fuelgaugereport.com]	Crude oil futures [compiled from nymex.com]
This week (Apr 4-10)	\$ 2.748/gallon	\$ 63.268/barrel
Last week (Mar 28-Apr 3)	\$ 2.676/gallon	\$ 65.312/barrel

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].

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Best regards,
Elaine Wang
Snelling Center Intern

[Vermont Clean Cities Coalition](#)