

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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- Fuels: Gas prices related to gas inventories

The high incidence of current refinery outages and low imports have combined with the recent rise in crude oil prices and seasonal demand growth to create record-breaking gas prices. [Source: [Energy Information Administration](#)]

- Fuels: Biodiesel Start-up (Rutland area)

Prudent Fuels, a nascent biodiesel firm, is working with the Rutland Area Farm and Food Link (RAFFL) to connect with local farmers who grow, or are interested in growing, energy crops such as sunflower, soy, canola, and peanuts. Interested growers can call 287-9311. [Source: [Rutland Herald](#)]

- Bike & Ped: Bike commuting tips

In the spirit of National Bike Month, a recent article provides great tips to help those of us with good intentions to bike to work but face time, distance, clothing, and other constraints. Information on related activities is also provided. [Source: [Concord Monitor](#)]

- Bike & Ped: Biking Inspiration - Lindy Millington, age 76

Need more inspiration to get back into biking? You'll need to look no further than Lindy Millington, who bikes for groceries, fresh eggs, and long distance trips at 76 years young. "Biking is fun," she says. "It's easier than running." [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- Bike & Ped: Multi-use path benefits

Multi-use paths (also known as 'bike paths') not only provide alternative

mobility options, they can also become economic engines in their own right by increasing property values and attracting tourism. Burlington and Stowe each estimate that their multi-use paths bring in millions of dollars in revenue. Rutland is currently considering a two-mile multi-use path. These projects qualify for 20% match federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds. Vermont's 2008 grant round deadlines are coming up; letters of intent are due by May 31. Call 828-0583 for more information on Vermont's TE program. [Source: [Times Argus](#), [VTrans](#)]

- **Bike & Ped: Bike path planning delay (St. Johnsbury)**

St. Johnsbury Academy has rejected access to the Three Rivers Transportation Path, saying that it would interfere with activities on the baseball field which it would have crossed. The path has been under development for 15 years. The proposed reroute will include the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and Western Avenue. The town's bike path municipal project manager has stated that the reroute should be cheaper than the if the path were to cross Academy property. [Source: [Caledonian Record](#)]

- **Bike & Ped: "Bicycle Benefits" program (Burlington area)**

Bicycle Benefits is a year-round bicycle commuter program which rewards cyclists. You receive Bicycle Benefits by riding their bikes to participating businesses and presenting your Bicycle Benefits sticker affixed on your helmet. The sticker can be picked up at participating businesses and Local Motion. [Source: [Bicycle Benefits](#)]

- **Bike & Ped: Pedestrian safety and AARP (Burlington)**

Burlington's Livable Community Project, spearheaded by the Vermont chapter of American Association of Retired Persons (AARP Vermont) is assessing the city for pedestrian trouble spots. AARP will be keeping track of their findings and submitting them to the city, with the hope that they will be incorporated into Burlington's transportation planning process. More about the transportation planning [here](#). [Sources: [WCAX](#), [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Rail spur proposed (Middlebury)**

A proposed rail spur in Middlebury would provide a more fuel-efficient way for businesses to transport their freight, and reduce truck traffic on Route 7 south of Middlebury. A hearing on the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is set for June 7 at 7pm in the Middlebury Municipal Building Gymnasium at 94 Main Street. The Federal Highway Administration and the Vermont Agency of Transportation will accept comments until June 29. The DEIS can be downloaded [here](#). [Sources: [Times Argus](#), [Rutland Herald](#)]

- **Policy Watch: CAFÉ standards**

Federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards have been widely discussed in Washington over the last two weeks. President Bush called for 'reforming and modernizing' the standards for cars and extending the current light truck rule, and a U.S. Senate committee approved a bill which would raise the standard to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, up from 27.5 mpg currently. Critics of Bush's plan say that his deadline is unnecessarily far off; critics of the Senate bill point out that an 11th-hour amendment allows for a reduced standard if proposed 35 mpg average is found by the Secretary of Transportation to not be cost effective for the affected automakers. [Sources: [Wall Street Journal](#), [MSNBC](#), [WhiteHouse.gov](#), [Washington Post](#)]

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- Vermont: Transportation Enhancements. Letters of intent due 5/31/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Regional: Professional development programs for farmers. Pre-proposal due 5/31/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal: Rural cooperative development. Closes 6/8/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal, R&D: Hydrogen separation and storage. Colleges and Universities eligible. Closes 6/12/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal, capital projects: Buses and bus facilities. Government entities eligible. Closes 6/21/07. [\[View\]](#)

- Federal, Planning: Integrating transportation and resources planning to develop ecosystem based infrastructure projects. Closing date TBD. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal, Demonstration: Lignocellulosic feedstock biorefinery. Closes 8/14/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal, Agriculture: Enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops. State governments eligible. [\[View\]](#)

- **Events**

5/1-6/15 Upper Valley	"Curb You Car" Spring Commuter Challenge <i>Info: bike2work-day.com</i>
5/22-24 Chittenden Co.	Circ-Williston Public Info Meetings 6:30-8:30, various locations <i>Info: http://www.circEIS.org</i>
5/31, Thu Burlington	Way to Go! Workplace Commuter Challenge Awards Ceremony 11:30am. Burlington Boathouse. <i>Info: 660.4071 x14</i>
6/7, Thu Middlebury	Middlebury Rail Spur Hearing 7pm. Middlebury Municipal Building Gymnasium. <i>Info: 828-3615 or online</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 (May 16-22)	\$ 3.004/gallon	\$ 64.718/barrel
Last week (May 9-15)	\$ 2.972/gallon	\$ 62.298/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
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[Vermont Clean Cities Coalition](#)