

Clean Cities Vermont eNewsletter 6.7.2007

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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• **Fuels: Biodiesel "Green Coach" Tour**

A national biodiesel bus tour launched by the Udall Foundation will highlight innovative initiatives underway in cities, Native American communities, national parks, and college campuses. The bus is the first motor coach certified by UVM's "[Green Coach Certification](#)" program and runs on B20 (a fuel blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel). The bus's emissions will be monitored by the University Transportation Center at UVM. On-board hardware will output real-time data accessible online [here](#). Various stops are planned for Vermont on June 21. For details, see Events below or click [here](#). [Source: [Udall Foundation](#)]

• **Bike & Ped: Ped Progress (Hinesburg)**

Hinesburg's presentation of their rezoning efforts to concentrate growth in their village center and improve pedestrian-friendliness of the town was met with approval by residents at a recent public forum. [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#)]

• **Bike & Ped: Multi-Use Path Update (St. Johnsbury)**

The long-awaited Three Rivers Transportation Path was recently subjected to another planning delay. The town will be holding a public meeting on June 11 to inform the public as to what has been done over the last 22 months, and discuss alternative versions (see Events below). [Source: [Caledonia Record](#)]

• **Alternative Modes: Way to Go! Commuter Challenge Winners**

Winners of this year's Way to Go! Commuter Challenge by employer size:

- Micro: Pure Country Janitorial
- Small: ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain
- Medium: Vermont Energy Investment Corp.
- Large: City of Burlington
- Major: University of Vermont

In total, over 1800 people participated in the event statewide. Together they saved over:

- 125 tons of air pollution
- 283,000 commuting miles
- \$43,000 in fuel costs

[Sources: [Way to Go!](#), [UVM](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Rail Spur Plans Continue (Middlebury)**

Omya continues to consider investing in a rail spur which would reduce truck traffic on Route 7. A hearing is being held on June 6 (see Events below). The project's environmental impact statement can be viewed at Middlebury Town Offices and the Isley Public Library. Copies have also been sent to the town offices of Salisbury, Leicester, Brandon, Pittsford, Whiting, and Cornwall as potentially affected Route 7 communities. It is also available online [here](#). [Source: [Rutland Herald](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Rail Linkages Proposed Between States**

The governors of Connecticut and Massachusetts have been discussing a rail line extension which would connect Hartford to Springfield. Vermont has also expressed interest in further extending the line into this state.

[Source: [The Republican](#)]

- **No Idling: School Bus Idling Ban Passed**

With the passage of the School Bus Idling bill, schools are projected to save \$300,000 that would have otherwise been spent on fuel for idling buses. The law also encourages development of a model policy to encourage school districts to restrict idling on school grounds by all vehicles. Children are more susceptible to engine exhaust because they breathe faster than adults. [Sources: [Burlington Free Press](#), [WCAX](#), [Boston Globe](#), [10% Challenge](#)]

- **No Idling: Business Campaign Launched**

Idle-Free Vermont has launched a Business Idle-Free campaign. The effort targets Vermont businesses that operate fleets. [Source: [Idle-Free Vermont](#)]

- **Circumferential Highway Update (Chittenden County)**

The latest data from consultants presented at public input meetings indicate no clear best option for the Vermont 2A part of the Circumferential Highway in terms of all-around positive impacts on mobility, the environment, and the economy. [Sources: [Vermont Agency of Transportation](#), [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- **Policy Watch: VTrans Planning Update**

More than 100 people recently engaged in an all-day working session exploring strategies to cope with different scenarios of the future, including those where gas prices rise above \$9.00 a gallon or where there are major weather disruptions from climate change. The "scenario planning" exercise was led by [RSG Inc.](#) and the [Snelling Center for Government](#) on behalf of the Vermont Agency of Transportation to inform its [Long Range Transportation Business Plan](#). [Source: [RSG Inc.](#)]

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- 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

6/7, Thu Middlebury	Middlebury Rail Spur Hearing 7pm. Middlebury Municipal Building Gymnasium. <i>Info: 828-3615 or online</i>
6/11, Mon St. Johnsbury	Three Rivers Transportation Path Info Mtg 6:30pm. St. Johnsbury municipal offices. <i>Info: Kevin Russell, Municipal Project Manager</i>
6/21, Thu Burlington, Alburg, South Hero	Udall Foundation Biodiesel Bus Tour University of Vermont, Borderview Farm, Allenholm Orchards, Catamount Outdoor Family Center <i>Info: online</i>
6/26, Tue Webcast	The Funding Connection: Federal Funding and Incentives for Alternative Fuels and Vehicles 1:30pm. Limited attendance, free. <i>Info: online</i>
7/16-17 Denver, CO	State Biofuels Policy Workshop State policy stakeholders discuss best practices. Limited attendance, free. <i>Info: elizabeth.brown@nrel.gov</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 30-Jun 5)	\$ 3.053/gallon	\$ 64.880/barrel
Last week (May 23-29)	\$ 3.058/gallon	\$ 64.575/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](#)