

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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STATS

- **Petro-Stats**

• **Fuels: Federal funding guidance**
If you missed the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute's (AFVi) free webcast seminar ('webinar'), you can view and listen to it [here](#). Topics covered included tips for federal grantwriting and highlights of all the relevant incentives for alternative fuel vehicles, alternative fueling stations, and fuel purchases. You can also access previous webinars on alternative fleet solutions, school buses, and natural gas in transit operations [here](#).
[Source: [AFVi](#)]

• **Fuels: Ethanol plant proposed (Rutland)**
The Rutland Redevelopment Authority (RRA) is exploring the possibility of building an ethanol plant within Rutland's city limits. RRA is applying for feasibility study funds from the Clean Energy Fund administered by the Vermont Department of Public Service. Initial ideas are to use grass as feedstock as opposed to corn. Another option is wood. RRA's executive director estimates that the ethanol plant would need to 60,000 acres of grass to be viable. [Source: [Rutland Herald](#)]

• **Fuels: Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle testing (Rutland)**
Central Vermont Public Service and Green Mountain College are teaming up to test the state's first plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV).

[Sources: [Rutland Herald](#), [WCAX](#)]

- **Fuels: Nissan hybrid joins the fleet**

Nissan has brought a hybrid version of its 2007 Altima to the market. However the company is being very cautious and is currently only offering the hybrid Altima in the eight states with the most stringent anti-pollution regulations - that is, including Vermont. They will only expand its availability if they see successful market acceptance in the trial states.

[Source: [The Washington Times](#)]

- **Fuels: Green Coach Certification program launched**

UVM's Green Coach Certification program has been launched. Lamoille Valley Transportation and the Udall Foundation's biodiesel bus tour are the first to be certified. Via the biodiesel bus tour, the Green Coach Certification program is seeing positive press nationwide. [Sources: [UVM](#), [Grainnet.com](#), [Indian Country Today](#), [The Environmental Magazine](#)]

- **Fuels: Biodiesel from emissions?**

This year's winning high school team in the Global Challenge, an engineering design contest co-sponsored by UVM's College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, proposed to use carbon emissions from currently operating power plants to grow algae, which can subsequently be harvested to make biodiesel. [Source: [UVM](#)]

- **Bike & Ped: Bikepath development history around the state**

The development histories of ten bikepaths around Vermont were recently described relative to the St. Johnsbury experience. The overall themes: fraught with difficulty, but worth the wait. [Source: [Caledonia Record](#)]

- **Bike & Ped: Bike/Ped summit report**

Attendees of the Chittenden County Bike/Ped Summit prioritized three areas in which to close the gaps between trails, sidewalk, and bike lanes: Route 15 corridor, Winooski River crossing, and Williston Road corridor. Specific improvements were recommended for other areas. Hinesburg and Williston were also recognized for their efforts to improve biking and walking. [Source: [Local Motion](#)]

- **Bike & Ped: Pedestrian mall Fridays and bike path plans (Rutland)**

Rutland's creative economy committees have advanced two plans which will encourage walking and biking: an open-air market day downtown on Fridays, and multi-use paths through the city. [Source: [Rutland Herald](#)]

- **Bike & Ped: Biking & walking safety improvements (Hinesburg)**

Hinesburg has widened shoulders to improve safety of bikers, walkers, and drivers. [Source: [Local Motion](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Rail riders on the rise**

Ridership on the two Amtrak trains that serve Vermont, one that runs from St. Albans-Washington D.C. and one from Rutland-New York City, have increased by 15%. The increase is attributed to several causes: a concerted marketing effort, high gas prices, and frustration with aviation and highway gridlock. [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Park & ride progress (Hinesburg)**

A parking area near the Hinesburg Town hall is being developed into a park & ride. It will support 11 park and ride and six general parking spaces. [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Final arguments filed in emissions case**

Final arguments by automakers asserted that maintaining California's emissions rules would result in Vermonters being unable to purchase pickup trucks and SUVs, and that only federal agencies are allowed to regulate fuel economy under the Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA). Vermont's final arguments rebut the latter claim, saying that a prior ruling, Massachusetts vs. EPA found that there is no conflict between the Clean Air Act (which enables states to have stricter than federal emissions standards) and the EPCA. In the meantime, activity at the federal level, both at the EPA and in Congress, may preempt impacts from the ruling.

[Source: [Burlington Free Press](#), [Brattleboro Reformer](#)]

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- Federal: Biomass research and development initiative. Closes 7/11/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal: Clean School Bus and voluntary diesel retrofit program. Closes 7/31/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal: Land grant institution rural entrepreneurial program outreach initiative. Closes 7/30/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal: Demonstrating and quantifying the co-be
- Federal, Demonstration: Lignocellulosic feedstock biorefinery. Closes 8/14/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal, Community development: Rural Community Development Initiative. Intermediary organizations eligible. Closes 9/16/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal, Agriculture: Enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops. State governments eligible. Closes 4/11/08. [\[View\]](#)

- **Events**

7/29, Fri Burlington	The Carbon Footprint of Transportation in the 21st Century Transportation discussion series. University Transportation Center, UVM <i>Info: 656-1312</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 m]	Crude oil futures [compiled from nymex.com]
This week (Jun 20-26)	\$2.995/gallon	\$68.586/barrel
Last week (Jun 13-19)	\$ 3.018/gallon	\$ 68.108/barrel
2 weeks ago (June 6-12)	\$ 3.037/gallon	\$ 65.905/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](#)