

Clean Cities Vermont eNewsletter 1.31.2007

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 fuelgaugereport.com]	Crude oil futures [compiled from nymex.com]
This week (Jan 24-30)	\$2.327/gallon	\$52.302/barrel
Last week (Jan 17-23)	\$2.285/gallon	\$55.174/barrel

NEWS & INFO BY SECTOR

- **Announcement: Vermont Clean Cities Coordination**
- **Fuels**
 - Home Grown Fuels
 - Biodiesel
 - Ethanol
 - Oil from Algae
- **Winter Business Leadership**

ON THE HORIZON

- **Policy Watch**
 - Transportation in VT legislature hearings
 - No-Idling
 - VTtrans Long Range Transportation Business Plan
- **Funding Opportunities**

- **Announcement: Vermont Clean Cities coordination**

The University Transportation Center (UTC) at the University of Vermont is the new official host of the Clean Cities program for Vermont. Between January and June 2007, the Snelling Center (the current coordinator) and the UTC will work cooperatively to continue existing activities, create reports and databases, and establish a new website for Vermont Clean Cities. Your input is welcomed.

- **Fuels: Home Grown Fuels**

A new Vermont-made handbook drawing national attention helps farmers understand and assess their options for producing their own energy, including biodiesel and ethanol. The "Farm Energy Handbook" is [available through the Vermont Agency of Agriculture](#). You can listen to an interview with the author [online](#). [Sources: [Forbes](#), [Burlington Free Press](#), [VPR Switchboard](#)]

- **Fuels: Biodiesel**

Lamoille Valley Transportation has become the first carbon-neutral private motor coach operator in the world. LVT has been using a biodiesel blend for a year, and has begun offsetting its remaining greenhouse gas emissions by buying credits through Native Energy. [Source: [Vermont Guardian](#)]

- **Fuels: Ethanol**

The national push for ethanol may be one of many factors contributing to the financial pain of Vermont dairy farmers. The economics of corn, ethanol, oil, and dairy products are all intertwined in a web of market forces that make for an interesting but worrisome story. [Source: [Times Argus](#)]

- **Fuels: Oil from algae**

The Vermont Biofuels Association is predicting that within 2 years, systems which make biodiesel from algae may become commercially viable. This technology would have two benefits to Vermont: reducing eutrophication pollution in Lake Champlain, and local production of fuel. [Source: [Addison Independent](#). [More info](#).]

- **Winter Business Leadership**

Businesses are among those in the lead of energy-saving efforts. Recent recognition has been garnered by Sugarbush and Smuggler's Notch, for implementing strategies such as biodiesel-powered machinery, carpooling incentives, and no-idling rule for cars. [Sources: [Rutland Herald](#), [WCAX](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Transportation in VT legislature hearings**

Plug in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), gas taxes, mass transit, and growing biofuels were transportation-related strategies that cropped up during the climate change hearings at the Vermont legislature. [Source: Burlington Free Press: [1/18](#), [1/19](#), [1/26](#)]

- **Policy Watch: No idling**

Committees in both the Vermont Senate and House have been hearing testimony on idling this session. School buses (S.0013, H.0058), motor vehicles over 5 tons (S.0025, H.0069), and motor vehicles (H.0143) are being discussed. Check for bill status [here](#). [Sources: [Idle-Free VT](#), [St. Albans Messenger](#)]

- **Policy Watch: VTrans Long Range Transportation Business Plan**

Working papers reviewing state and national transportation policy and state agency policy are online [here](#). [Source: [VTrans](#)]

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- UVM Transportation Center Graduate Fellowships: Graduate students are eligible. [\[View\]](#)
- UVM Transportation Center Research Grants: Modeling, alternative vehicles, tourism, and northern climates. Faculty are eligible. Close 3/15/07 and 4/15/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal R&D, technology: E85 optimized engine. Closes 3/15/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal R&D, technology: Enabling technologies for fuels and lubricants. Closes 3/15/07. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal R&D, technology: Efficiency, clean combustion and fuels co-development. Closes 3/15/07. [\[View\]](#)

USEFUL CALENDARS

[10% Challenge](#)

[Vermont Peak Oil Network](#)

We strive to provide you with useful information, and welcome your comments, items, and ideas at clean-cities@snellingcenter.org.

- To subscribe: send a blank email to clean-cities@snellingcenter.org with 'subscribe' in the subject line.
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Best regards,
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Vermont Clean Cities Coalition