

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 (Feb 7-13)	\$ 2.254/gallon	\$ 58.836/barrel
Last week (Jan 30-Feb 6)	\$ 2.261/gallon	\$ 58.416/barrel

NEWS & INFO BY SECTOR

- Fuels
 - Grease
 - Biodiesel
 - Biofuel technology
- No Idling
- Alternative Modes
 - VTrans Survey Results

ON THE HORIZON

- Oil Industry Discusses Alternatives
- Funding Opportunities

- Fuels: Grease

Instructor Tom Tresch at Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center's automotive technology program is helping his students apply what they're learning about alternative fuel. Student groups used conversion kits from Greasecar Vegetable Fuel systems to convert two cars. [Source: [Addison Independent](#)]

- Fuels: Biodiesel

Marble Valley Regional Transit plans to switch to biodiesel when it warms up. Its busses use about 155,000 gallons of fuel a year. [Source: [Rutland Herald](#), [BFP](#)]

- Fuels: Biofuel technology

A marine microbe may represent the next jump in producing alternative energy. Scientists at the University of California-Berkeley and the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Lab found recently that proteorhodopsin, a light-sensitive protein found in many marine bacteria, allows its host organism to switch to solar energy when it can't use oxygen. Researchers point out that bacteria which can draw from more than one energy source may be better at producing biofuels than microbes utilizing only one energy source. [Source: [Science Daily](#)]

- No Idling

Students from Browns River Middles School in Jericho made the case that the Legislature should ban idling by buses on school grounds. They testified to the House Natural Resources Committee that 1800 school buses in Vermont burn up to 13,500 gallons of diesel while idling on average about five minutes. This translated to \$36,450 of wasted dollars. [Source: [Times Argus](#), [BFP](#)]

- Alternative modes: VTrans survey results

Among other topics, participant in the recent survey administered by

VTrans were asked what actions, circumstances or transportation alternatives might cause or encourage them to drive their cars less. Respondents were not read any choices and multiple mentions were permitted. [Source: [VTrans](#). Full survey report [here](#).]

- More than one in three Vermont residents (37%) would not take any actions to drive their passenger vehicles any less than they do currently. In June 2000, almost two out of three responded that they would not take any action.
- The options that would be most likely to cause some residents to consider driving less were better public transit (22%) and higher gasoline prices (17%). An additional 7 percent specifically mentioned commuter trains. If the number of respondents who specified commuter trains or public transit are combined into one category, 29 percent of Vermonters who currently travel by car might drive less if there were more public transportation options.

- **Oil industry discusses alternatives**

Several oil industry have lately been discussing the growing energy challenge. ConocoPhillips, Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, and BP have all been discussing alternatives with each other, making presentations to the public, and investing in alternative sources. [Source: [Forbes](#)]

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- UVM Transportation Center Graduate Fellowships: Graduate students are eligible. [\[View\]](#)
- UVM Transportation Center Research Grant. Small faculty grants. Close 3/15/07. [\[View\]](#)
- UVM Transportation Center Research Grant. Signature research projects. Faculty are eligible. Close 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. [\[View\]](#)
- Federal: Rail operation improvement research. Non profits are eligible. Closes 3/23/07. [\[View\]](#)
- 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. [\[View\]](#)

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.

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Best regards,
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[Vermont Clean Cities Coalition](#)