

Clean Cities Vermont eNewsletter 3.14.2007

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 (Mar 7-13)	\$ 2.550/gallon	\$ 60.070/barrel
Last week (Feb 28-Mar 6)	\$ 2.444/gallon	\$ 60.605/barrel

NEWS & INFO BY SECTOR

- **Announcement: Clean Cities Vermont Stakeholders Meeting**
- **Fuels**
 - PHEV Benefits
 - Hydrogen and Biofuels Research Grant for UVM
 - Biodiesel On-Farm Production in Shaftsbury
 - Biodiesel and Basketball
- **Alternative Modes**
 - Bus Commuting
- **No Idling**
 - Brattleboro Students Fight Idling

ON THE HORIZON

- **Policy Watch**
 - Auto Industry Sues Vermont
 - Transportation Fuels in the Governor's Commission on Climate Change
 - Climate Change Hearings Online
- **Event Invitation: Clean Car (and more!) Show**
- **Funding Opportunities**

- **Announcement: Clean Cities Vermont Stakeholders Meeting**

What: Clean Cities Stakeholder Roundtable meeting

When: Wednesday March 28, 9-11am

Where: University of Vermont,
University Heights South Building
Room S-1

This meeting will be the first convened through the University Transportation Center's role as the Vermont host of the Clean Cities program. At this meeting we plan to discuss the activities underway and to develop our work plan for the next year.

For more information or to RSVP, please email Richard Watts at rwatts@uvm.edu.

- **Fuels: PHEV benefits**

A new modeling study conducted for Colorado show that Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) may result in a reduction of the overall expense of owning a vehicle, and eliminate up to 50% of harmful emissions, depending on the electric power grid into which the vehicle is plugged. [Source: [Plug in Partners](#)]

- **Fuels: Hydrogen and biofuels research grant for UVM**

University of Vermont's College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences has received a \$700,000 grant for transportation research focused on the adoption and use of hydrogen and bio-based fuels. Supported projects will include optimizing safety and operations of future hydrogen fuel networks in cold climates, creating electric power for hybrid vehicles with farm bio-waste; and developing nanostructured materials for hydrogen fuel cells. [Source: [UVM's The View](#); article on the hydrogen project: [Times Argus](#)]

- **Fuels: Biodiesel On-Farm Production in Shaftsbury**

An aging dairy farm is breaking ground growing test plots of oil-producing seed crops to make its own fuel in Shaftsbury. UVM Extension and UVM's Center for Sustainable Agriculture have been providing technical assistance. [Source: [UVM](#)]

- **Fuels: Biodiesel and basketball**

Vermont's own American Basketball Association (ABA) basketball team, the Frost Heaves, ride a biodiesel-powered bus. Sports Illustrated mentions the fact in a recent article [here](#) (on page 3). The team opens the playoffs this Saturday in Burlington with the League's best record - is it the fuel? [Source: [Vermont Frost Heaves](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Bus commuting**

Ridership on the inter-county LINK Express bus services just keep growing. This corresponds with national trends in increasing bus ridership. [Sources: [Seven Days](#), [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- **No Idling: Brattleboro students fight idling**

Students are passing around an all-ages petition to be presented to the Brattleboro Selectboard, which asks the board to consider an ordinance banning engine idling over two minutes. Other students are working on raising public awareness. [Source: [Brattleboro Reformer](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Auto industry sues Vermont**

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and three Vermont auto dealerships are suing Vermont, Rhode Island, and California over their stricter-than-federal emissions standards. The suit against Vermont is slated for March 22 in the U.S. District Court in Burlington and will be the first case to be heard. A prior hearing is being held on March 19 to determine whether the plaintiffs' request to restrict public and media access to the emissions standards hearings will be granted. Court calendar for [March 19](#) and [March 22](#). [Sources: [WCAX](#), [Rutland Herald](#), [Burlington Free Press](#), [U.S. District Court District of Vermont](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Transportation fuels in the Governor's Commission on Climate Change**

Transportation, biofuel, and land use policy options are being considered by the Governor's Commission on Climate Change (GCCC). To see these options, visit the [Transportation and Land Use](#) and the [Agriculture, Forestry, & Waste Management](#) technical work group sites. [Source: [GCCC](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Climate change hearings online**

The 2007 legislative session kicked off with three weeks of hearings on climate change. If you weren't able to attend, you can now listen to much of the testimony online at VPR [here](#) (scroll to the very bottom of the page). Dates which included transportation-relevant testimony are 1/17, 1/18, 1/24, and 1/25. [Source: [VPR](#)]

- **Event Invitation: Clean Car (and more!) Show**

If you or your organization has an alternatively fueled vehicle and love talking about it, this is the event for you. The 3rd annual Clean Car (and more!) Show will be on April 22nd on Church Street in Burlington. Interested? Email Elaine at ewang@10percentchallenge.org to sign up.

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- UVM Transportation Center Research Grant. Signature research projects. Faculty are eligible. Close 4/15/07. [[View](#)]

- UVM Transportation Center Graduate Fellowships: Graduate students are eligible. Close 4/15/07. [\[View\]](#)
- 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.

- To subscribe: send a blank email to clean-cities@snellingcenter.org with 'subscribe' in the subject line.
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Best regards,
Elaine Wang
Snelling Center Intern

[Vermont Clean Cities Coalition](#)