

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].

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

More than 45 people attended the first annual Clean Cities Roundtable Wednesday at UVM. Topics covered and the powerpoint slides used are available online [here](#). A major task focus of the discussion was to brainstorm one "special task" or activity the new Clean Cities host could take on starting after July 1 when the UVM Transportation Center officially assumes host duties. Suggestions are still welcome to rwatts@uvm.edu or laultman@uvm.edu.

Feedback on the newsletter was also provided which were much appreciated, and will be implemented over time. Suggestions on how to improve the newsletter are welcome at any time to clean-cities@snellingcenter.org.

- **Fuels: Biofuel activities**

A recent article summarizes many of the exciting farm-based biofuel initiatives happening in Vermont, including sunflower ventures in Randolph Center, Newbury, and Westfield, a passive solar biodiesel production facility, and an Alburgh design that produces electricity and biodiesel using a crop digester and algae. Organizations which have facilitated some of these activities are the Vermont Biofuels Association and the UVM Extension Service. [Source: [Times Argus](#)]

- **Fuels: Biodiesel plant opens soon**

Biocardel's Swanton plant is set to open at the end of the month. The biodiesel will be sold to local fuel blenders. Annual production is expected to be 4 million gallons and increase to 12 million by 2009. [Source: [UPI](#)]

- **Fuels: Biodiesel rockers**

Rock bands and artists such as Sheryl Crow and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, are attempting to green up what they can of their tours, including using

biodiesel in their buses. Many also purchase carbon offsets from Vermont-based NativeEnergy. [Sources: [Rutland Herald](#), [Pollstar](#)]

- **Alternative Modes: Public transit argument**

A recent opinion piece summarizes the argument to increase public transportation funding. [Source: [Burlington Free Press](#)]

- ***Policy Watch: Public hearing on vehicle efficiency fee***

The House Transportation Committee is considering a surcharge on new vehicles that get less than 20 miles per gallon as a way to encourage purchase of efficient automobiles and raise revenues for public transit. A hearing is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, April 3rd from 6-9pm. The committee is encouraging the public to attend.

CCTA will be providing busing from downtown Burlington to Montpelier for the hearing. To reserve your spot call 864-0211 or email marketing@cctaride.org by 4pm TODAY, Monday April 2nd. [Source: [VPR](#), [Vermont Legislature](#)]

- **Policy Watch: State public transit funding**

Lawmakers are considering public transit funding separately from the rest of the transportation budget this year. The House Transportation Committee is considering a fee assessed on cars with poor fuel efficiency as one source. [Sources: [Burlington Free Press](#), [Times Argus](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Rail in eastern Vermont**

A pilot project to boost Amtrak service on the Vermonter route to two roundtrips a day is being considered by the Legislature. Service would originate in St. Albans and White River Junction and end in New Haven, Connecticut. The initiative hinges on whether to purchase five state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly rail cars known as diesel multiple units (DMUs). [Source: [Time Argus](#)]

- **Policy Watch: Multimodal Montpelier?**

The city of Montpelier is launching a project called "Envision Montpelier" to engage those who live and work there in what they want the city to be like in 5-30 years. Among the projects considered are improved bike-friendliness and a multimodal transit center. The city planner is currently looking for survey volunteers. [Source: [Times Argus](#)]

- **Policy Watch: CAFE standards for cars**

The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has received testimony from the Government Accountability Office on CAFE standards. It discusses 1) recent and proposed changes to the standards; 2) the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's capabilities to restructure the standards, and 3) how the CAFE program fits in the context of other policy approaches to reduce oil consumption. Click [here](#) to read the testimony. [Source: [Transportation Research Board](#)]

- **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: 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](#)]
- Federal: Planning flexible public transportation service strategies for rural and small, medium, and large urban transit agencies. Closes 5/2/07. [[View](#)]

- Regional: Professional development programs for farmers. Pre-proposal due 5/31/07. [\[View\]](#)

Weekly Petro-Stats

	Gas at the pump, VT [compiled from fuelgaugereport.com]	Crude oil futures [compiled from nymex.com]
This week (Mar 21-27)	\$ 2.606/gallon	\$ 62.276/barrel
Last week (Mar 14-20)	\$ 2.572/gallon	\$ 57.228/barrel

EVENT 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](#)