Nebraska Clean Cities

NEC3 Newsletter

March/April 2011

"Supporting the Good Life through local, market-based alternative fuel solutions"

Upcoming Events

Ethanol 2011: Emerging Issues Forum
Thursday, April 7- Friday, April 8, 2011
Magnolia Hotel
1615 Howard Street
Omaha, NE
For more information visit the event website at:
http://www.ne-ethanol.org/forum2011/index.htm

Lincoln Earth Day Events
Saturday, April 23, 2011
For more information on the many Earth Day events in Lincoln visit the website:
http://www.lincolnearthday.org/

Earth Day Omaha
Saturday, April 23, 2011
11am – 4pm
Elmwood Park
For more information on this event visit the website:
http://www.earthdayomaha.com/

USDA Rural Development Renewable Energy in Nebraska Conferences
Tuesday, April 26, 2011
8:30am – 5:30pm
Holiday Inn Express
Beatrice, NE

Thursday, April 28, 2011
8:30am – 8:30pm
Lifelong Learning Center
Norfolk, NE
For more information on these events contact Deb Yocum at: debra.yocum@ne.usda.gov

Compelling Case for NGVs Workshop
Thursday, April 28, 2011
Univ. of Nebraska Champions Club
1520 R Street
Lincoln, NE
For more information visit the event website at:
http://www.cleanvehicle.org/workshop/lincoln.shtml

Omaha Public CNG Station Opening
Friday, June 10, 2011
Happy Cab Company
54th & L Street
Omaha, NE
Press Conference/Ribbon-cutting at 2pm

For more information on either CNG event contact Mike Corrigan at: mike_corrigan@mudnebr.com

CNG Hummer Tour Coming to KC
Thursday, May 5, 2011
For more information on this event contact Dick Snodgrass at: Richard@rsnodgrass.com

Please submit event notices to Dave Dingman at: dave.dingman@nebraska.gov

Statewide Coalition Seeks to Grow Nebraska's Alternative Fuels Markets

The Nebraska Clean Cities Coalition (NEC3) is an emerging government-industry partnership dedicated to reducing petroleum consumption throughout the state's transportation sector by supporting development of infrastructure and market-based solutions that represent a diversified portfolio of emissions control and idle reduction technologies and non-petroleum-based alternatives for local fleets and consumers. NEC3's initial focus concentrates on expanding opportunities for biofuels, compressed natural gas and electric transportation resources in Nebraska and the region.

Local interest and stakeholder involvement is vital to the group's early success. In less than a year, NEC3 has grown from an idea to include more than 60 stakeholders from across Nebraska representing state and federal agencies, electric and natural gas utilities, municipalities, fuel retailers, auto retailers, fleet operators, non-profit organizations, local business leaders and individuals.

Established as part of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Clean Cities is a nationwide program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Since 1993, the Clean Cities program has resulted in the creation of more than 87 active coalitions in 45 states serving 78% of the U.S. population. As a result of these localized efforts, Clean Cities coalitions nationwide have placed more than 620,000 alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) on the nation's roadways and have installed more than 5,600 AFV fueling stations in order to fuel these vehicles. *Continued on Page 2*

Nebraska Ethanol Board Hosts Annual Ethanol Forum

By: Todd Sneller, Nebraska Ethanol Board

On April 7-8, 2011 the Ethanol Board will host the Ethanol 2011: Emerging Issues Forum in Omaha. The Forum features local and national speakers from industry and government that focus attention on efforts to displace petroleum with higher blends of ethanol.

More than 85% of the gasoline sold in Nebraska contains 10% ethanol. With more than 92,000 Flexible Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) on the road in Nebraska, more consumers are becoming acquainted with E85, an alternative fuel comprised of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. More than 65 public and private fueling sites offer E85 in Nebraska. Nearly 20 of those locations include "blender pumps" which dispense ethanol blends from E20 to E50 as well as E85. E85 and the higher ethanol blends are intended for use in Flexible Fuel Vehicles which are designed to operate on any blend of ethanol and gasoline. More than 40 makes and models of cars, vans and trucks are available as FFVs.

NEC3 to Co-Sponsor NGV Workshop in Lincoln

By: Mike Corrigan and Dave Dingman

Black Hills Energy and Metropolitan Utilities District-Omaha are co-sponsoring a workshop on natural gas vehicles in Lincoln, Nebraska on April 28th, 2011. The "Compelling Case for Natural Gas Vehicles (NGV)" is a comprehensive one-day workshop for public and private fleet operators and clean-air/clean-transportation policymakers. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from NGV industry experts, fleet operators and vendors about all of the factors involved in establishing a successful NGV program. The agenda and registration information are on-line at: http://www.cleanvehicle.org/workshop/lincoln.shtml. Space is limited so register early!

NEC3 is pleased to co-sponsor this event along with many of our individual stakeholder organizations. We are especially happy to welcome our partners from the Kansas City Regional Clean Cities Coalition (KRCCC). KRCCC has been instrumental in enabling NEC3 and our stakeholders to engage in local and regional efforts to increase the availability and affordability of natural gas vehicles and infrastructure.

Lincoln Airport Authority Supporting CNG in Lincoln

By: John Wood, Lincoln Airport Authority

In 2009, Lincoln Airport Authority (LAA) joined Metropolitan Utilities District-Omaha (MUD) as a partner in the Kansas City Regional Clean Cities Coalition (KRCCC) application to the DOE for an available grant as part of the economic stimulus bill passed by Congress.

LAA's portion of the grant covers the purchase and installation of a CNG fueling station and the acquisition of seven new CNG powered vehicles. The grant pays for 50% of the fueling station and 100% of the conversion cost of the vehicles. The vehicles are ones that we would be buying anyway as part of our ongoing replacement of maintenance, police and other LAA owned "street" vehicles. We generally replace 3 or 4 vehicles each year with a total fleet of about 25 vehicles.

LAA recently awarded the contract for building the fueling station to NIFCO and expect it will be operational in mid to late June. We will be timing our vehicle purchases to match this time frame. We anticipate our first vehicle purchase will be a Ford Transit Connect which can be ordered from Ford as a CNG vehicle. This will be followed by the purchase of CNG maintenance vehicles.

The fueling station will be located near the airport operations facility on the west side of the airport about 1 block north of W. Mathis St. and NW 36th St. The station will be equipped with a fuel management system that will allow for public, credit card only, CNG purchase (self serve operation, available 24 hours). Types of credit cards accepted and fuel pricing are yet to be determined. A press release and grand opening will be scheduled when the station is operational. *Continued on Page 2*

NEC3 *(continued from Page 1)* Building on nearly two decades of success, the DOE Clean Cities program has adopted a goal of displacing 2.5 billion gallons of petroleum-based fuels annually by the year 2020. To meet this goal, coalitions must seek to reduce local petroleum consumption by 17% annually.

Currently, NEC3 is in the process of obtaining official designation as a Clean Cities coalition by the DOE. Receiving official designation enables the coalition to access technical support and financial resources from DOE to facilitate NEC3 programs and partnerships. This process is expected to take about a year.

As part of the designation process, NEC3 is undertaking a comprehensive market analysis of alternative fuels and vehicles in the state. The analysis will be used to guide NEC3 programs development and inform local leaders and residents of the potential for various alternative fuels in their area and across the state.

While pursuing official designation, the coalition also is supporting early stakeholder efforts to convert or purchase new fleet vehicles and install fueling infrastructure by promoting public awareness and special events.

Nebraskans with an interest in joining or learning more about the benefits of being a NEC3 stakeholder are encouraged to visit the NEC3 webpage at: http://neo.ne.gov/cleancities/nebraskacleancities.htm ■

Welcome New NEC3 Board Members!

In February, the NEC3 Board of Directors approved stakeholder nominations for private sector and at-large seats on the NEC3 Board. Congratulations to our new members! Now the work begins.

NEC3 Board of Directors

Nebraska Energy Office – Ginger Willson
Nebraska Department of Roads – Tom Sands
City of Lincoln – Milo Mumgaard
City of Omaha – Kristi Wamstad-Evans
Black Hills Energy – Paul Cammack
Omaha Public Power District – Tom Sandoz
Electric Transportation Partners/Nebraska – Anne McCollister
Lincoln Composites – Brock Peterson
Nebraska Energy Office – Dave Dingman
Metropolitan Utilities District-Omaha – Mike Corrigan
Eric's Electric – Eric Hoke

NEC3 Stakeholder Spotlights

Organization: Lincoln Composites, Lincoln, NE
NEC3 Representative: Brock Peterson

Lincoln Composites has been manufacturing composite structures and pressure vessels since 1963. For the past twenty years, Lincoln has focused on developing and manufacturing all-composite high pressure vessels for energy storage. TUFFSHELL® composite fuel containers are used on the largest fleets of natural-gas powered transit buses in North America and Europe. Currently, over 90% of the North American market for NGV buses is using products made in Lincoln, NE. The composite cylinder technology has also been put to use in the hydrogen fuel cell vehicle market. Companies in Europe, Asia and North America have used TUFFSHELL® cylinders on their prototype and early production hydrogen-powered vehicles. In March of 2010, Lincoln Composites introduced the TITAN™ storage module, the world's largest commercially available all-composite pressure vessel storage system. The TITAN™ module is used to provide CNG refueling infrastructure in countries without sufficient natural gas pipelines to provide a suitable network of NGV fueling stations. Lincoln Composites corporate vision is to advance technologies which reduce the reliance on and consumption of gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicles.

Organization: Nebraska Ethanol Board
NEC3 Representative: Todd Sneller

The Nebraska Ethanol Board took an active role in a coalition that worked with the City of Omaha to attain designation as the 66th Clean City in 1998. Partnering with several alternative fuel advocacy organizations, the Nebraska Ethanol Board promoted the installation and use of an E85 dispenser in close proximity to state, local and Postal Service Flexible Fuel fleet vehicles in downtown Omaha. This collaborative Clean City effort lasted six years before Omaha was delisted as a Clean City. The Nebraska Ethanol Board applauds the renewed interest in alternative fuels and will work with the coalition in an effort to sustain the statewide program as it seeks Clean City designation.

LAA *(Continued from Page 1)* Our intent is to replace additional vehicles each year with CNG vehicles until the entire fleet is CNG. Also, as CNG powered heavy equipment becomes an option, we will look to replace that with CNG in its normal replacement cycle.

Reasons for our taking this path are several:

It is always good to be green. Even though Lincoln is not in a non-attainment area for air quality there is no time like now to use a cleaner burning fuel to keep our air clean. Equipment lasts longer because the fuel is cleaner and, hopefully, in the future we can slow down the replacement rate for vehicles thereby saving money.

As an airport we are a 24-hour operation and responsible for keeping a vital asset open for the community. Natural gas is abundant in North America and the threat that we might not be able to get timely deliveries of gasoline in the future is part of our thinking.

Because we operate a fleet of vehicles that are "home" every night it is natural for us to go to the effort of installing the infrastructure for our own use. This allows us to take a lead in the community so that someday enough companies and individuals buy CNG vehicles and it becomes feasible for the private sector to make the investment in CNG fueling equipment and as it becomes more readily available more people consider CNG vehicles - a virtuous circle.

Price is another reason. We currently estimate that the payback on our investment in CNG (50% of fueling station and conversion cost of future vehicle purchases) will take about 5 years. After that the price difference between natural gas (currently $1.55 per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE)) is simply good savings to our operational budget as the price for gasoline continues to climb.■