



What's New at the Alternative Fuels Data Center? June 2007

Listed below are new publications and other information recently made available through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC). The AFDC is sponsored by Clean Cities in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and is managed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). For more information, or if you would like to subscribe to this monthly update, contact Wendy Dafoe at wendy_dafoe@nrel.gov or 303-275-4470.

This update is posted online at www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/toolbox/current_cutting.html.

News

Enterprise Rent-A-Car is designating its Washington, D.C., rental location as an official E85/FlexFuel branch. Enterprise is partnering with VeraSun Energy, DOE, and EPA to make E85 available to the general public in the nation's capitol. Fifty of the vehicles (or half the fleet) at the E85/FlexFuel branch will be GM FFVs. Enterprise estimates it will fuel the FFVs with more than 3,000 gallons of E85 per year. To educate customers about E85, Enterprise will provide in-car materials about the fueling station location (Georgetown Chevron, 2450 Wisconsin Ave., NW) and the environmental benefits of the fuel. For details, visit http://aboutus.enterprise.com/file/144/E85_DC_FINAL_June07.pdf.

GM announced initiatives in support of alternative fuels technologies. Contracts were awarded to Compact Power and Continental Automotive Systems for the development of lithium-ion battery packs for the Chevrolet Volt concept car, which manufactured as a fuel cell vehicle and plug-in hybrid. GM also announced plans to produce a clean diesel engine at a New York plant in late 2009. This new engine is expected to yield 25% greater fuel efficiency and 90% lower emissions than gasoline models. For more information, read GM's press releases at:

- <http://media.gm.com/servlet/GatewayServlet?target=http://image.emerald.gm.com/gmnews/view/monthlyreleasedetail.do?domain=74&docid=36804>
- <http://media.gm.com/servlet/GatewayServlet?target=http://image.emerald.gm.com/gmnews/view/monthlyreleasedetail.do?domain=74&docid=37112>.

Mississippi State University (MSU) Team Wins Challenge X Competition to re-engineer a Chevrolet Equinox SUV to improve fuel economy and reduce environmental impact. The school's winning vehicle is a hybrid-electric, direct-injection, turbocharged diesel using B20, which increased fuel economy by 48% compared to the production vehicle. Seventeen university teams participated in the competition sponsored by DOE; GM; and 24 other industrial, government, and association sponsors. To read more, go to www.msuchallengex.org.

The Hydrogen Education Foundation announced it is seeking entries for its Hydrogen Student Design Contest, which will focus on hydrogen and fuel cell applications at airports. Chosen teams will be eligible for funding to construct their proposed designs and will have the opportunity to present them at the National Hydrogen Association Conference. For details, go to www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/progs/ddown.cgi?afdc/WHATS_NEW/723/1/0.

DOE and USDA announced they will fund research projects to improve biomass conversion technologies. Projects are sought for the specific areas of converting cellulosic biomass into

intermediaries for biobased fuels (45%), product diversification (30%), feedstock production (20%), and analysis for strategic guidance (5%). For more information, read the press release at www.energy.gov/news/5122.htm.

President Bush announced plans to convene a series of meetings on developing a new framework on greenhouse gas emissions to include developing countries, such as China and India, with rapidly growing economies. The goal is to have a new plan in place when the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012. Lack of commitment by developing countries was a reason cited for the U.S. not signing the Kyoto Protocol. To read Bush's speech, visit www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070531-9.html. For a fact sheet on the proposal, go to www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070531-13.html.

Publications

Clean Cities Now: The latest edition of this quarterly e-newsletter features articles on Clean Cities' annual reporting results, Roush Industries' new propane Ford F-150, a California garbage dump that turns landfill gas into liquefied natural gas, and new requirements for federal agencies. Check it out at www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/ccn.

100,000 Mile Evaluation of Transit Buses Operated on Biodiesel Blends (B20): This report presents results of comprehensive long-term, real-world evaluation of five buses using B20 and four using straight petroleum diesel. The demonstration finds only minor differences in fuel economy and maintenance. For details, read the report at www.nrel.gov/docs/fy07osti/40128.pdf.

2006 B100 Quality Survey Results: Milestone Report: This report presents results of a sampling of biodiesel supplies used for fuel blending during 2006. Approximately one-third of the biodiesel samples contained more glycerin than the prescribed standard, while another one-third had too low a flash point. These findings are significant because out-of-specification fuel has been found responsible for most problems with biodiesel use. Read the report at www.nrel.gov/docs/fy07osti/41549.pdf.

Events

Hybridfest 2007 is scheduled for July 21-22, in Madison, Wis. The two-day event showcases currently available hybrid vehicles and features environmental speakers and educational demonstrations. To learn more, visit www.hybridfest.com.

Mark your calendars for **Natural Gas Vehicles: CNG Cylinder Inspection**, July 26-27, in Morgantown, W.Va., a two-day, hands-on event that certifies attendees to examine CNG storage containers. For details, see www.naftc.wvu.edu.

