

Valley Sky-Lines

April 2007

Volume 5 Issue 5



Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition

FUTURE MEETINGS

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June 7, 2007

Location:

**Clark County Water
Reclamation District
5857 E. Flamingo Rd**

11:30 a.m. - Board of Directors

1:30 p.m. - Stakeholders Mtg.

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August 2, 2007

Location:

**Regional Transportation
Commission**

500 S. Grand Parkway

11:30 a.m.—Board of Directors

1:30 p.m.—Stakeholders Mtg.

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September 20, 2007

The Orleans Hotel

4500 W. Tropicana

**"BioFuels Drive Economic
Solutions**

A one-day seminar on the use of
biofuels in fleets

8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

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October 4, 2007

Location: TBD

11:30 a.m. - Board of Directors

1:30 p.m. - Stakeholders Mtg.

Coordinator's Corner

"Just Say No" to Imported Oil

"Education is the key." You've heard that phrase dozens of times applied to hundreds of situations...how to make new technology more useful in your work...why we should be taking steps to decrease energy use in our homes... how to convince children not to use drugs.

Education still is the key...especially when it comes to alternative fuels and vehicles, and advanced transportation technologies. And we are one step closer to having an alternative fuels and vehicles education program in Las Vegas.

Last month, the Assembly Ways and Means Committee of the Nevada Legislature introduced Assembly Bill 402. The bill makes an appropriation to the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition for a \$500,000 educational initiative over a two-year period, and we are hopeful the bill passes for many reasons.

In 2005, groundbreaking legislation was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President to encourage government entities, businesses and consumers to purchase and operate alternative fueled vehicles (AFVs). The incentives defined in this legislation—the Energy Policy Act of 2005—can total hundreds of thousands, and in some cases millions, of dollars for government entities (*even if they are tax exempt!*) and businesses. For consumers, the incentives provide

federal income tax credits of up to \$4000 per vehicle, depending on the vehicle purchased.

However, there is very little awareness—and in some cases disbelief—about the large sums of money available just for purchasing and operating AFVs. This has to change, and education is the key.

As President Bush emphasized in his State of the Union address, there is no question that our country, and we as individual citizens, must begin to wean ourselves from oil. Production will continue to decline, demand will increase and prices will continue to go up.

There is also no question that our country must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The overall environmental effects are evident, and the health effects cost our nation millions of dollars each year.

To some, \$500,000 is a lot of money to ask the Nevada Legislature to spend. But it is a small price to pay for educational programs that will increase the number of AFVs operating on the road in Clark County.

The education funded by AB 402 is the most important key that will help Nevadans "just say no" to imported oil.

Dan Hyde, Coordinator

Water District Dedicates Hydrogen Fueling Station



Solar panels collect energy from the sun to create hydrogen for fueling vehicles at the Las Vegas Valley Water District.

Now there are two...hydrogen fueling stations in Las Vegas, that is. On April 12, the Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) in partnership with the UNLV Research Foundation dedicated a demonstration program featuring a hydrogen fueling station that operates entirely on solar power.

Funded in large part through a grant from the United States Department of Energy, the project is one of the first systems of its kind in the U.S., said LVVWD Deputy General Manager Richard Wimmer.

This project is just one example of the Water District's commitment to becoming a leader in incorporating sustainable practices into all aspects of its operations," Wimmer said during the dedication ceremony. "Our goal is to become a 100% alternative fueled fleet by 2015." Alternative fuel vehicles, including gasoline/ electric hybrids and those utilizing compressed natural gas and biodiesel, currently comprise 77% of the Water District's fleet.

Using power collected by solar panels that follow the sun's path across the sky, the facility's generators use electrolysis to extract hydrogen from water, which is stored and used as a fuel. Hydrogen is colorless, odorless and releases no damaging by-products.

The first two vehicles in the LVVWD hydrogen fleet are a Polaris Ranger internal combustion utility vehicle that has been converted to operate on hydrogen, and a Taylor-Dunn converted electric truck that operates via a hydrogen fuel cell.

"Hydrogen is a very important fuel in the mix of alternative fuels and vehicles for the Las Vegas Valley," said Dan Hyde, Executive Director of the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition. "These fuels help the coalition achieve its goal of reducing dependence on petroleum products and improving air quality.

For more information, contact Roger Buehrer at 702-

Las Vegas Named #1 Alternative Fueled City in U.S.

SustainLane, the first internet and media company dedicated to empowering consumers, businesses and government to go green, recently named Las Vegas the number one alternative fueled city in the U.S. The conclusion was drawn as a result of a survey of the largest 50 U.S. cities in 2006 as to the percentage of their city vehicles fleets using alternative fuels, including biodiesel, hydrogen, ethanol, compressed natural gas, as well as electric vehicles, gas-hybrid vehicles.

Las Vegas led the nation, with almost 63 percent of its vehicles using alternative fuels, including 450 vehicles using cleaner-burning B20 biodiesel (20%), in addition to using less-polluting compressed natural gas, electric hybrids and zero-polluting hydrogen vehicles.

Las Vegas topped other cities for the number one title.

Here are the specific rankings.

1. Las Vegas (63%)
2. Honolulu (51%)
3. Kansas City, MO (45%)
4. Albuquerque (42%)
5. Dallas (39%)
6. Denver (31%)
7. Phoenix (28%)
8. Los Angeles (25%)
9. Seattle (25%)
10. Portland (25%)

Honda Named “Greenest Automaker” by the Union of Concerned Scientists

Honda has earned the title of America’s 2007 Greenest Automaker” from the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) for the fourth consecutive time. The award is given by the UCS on a biennial basis to the company with the lowest overall production of smog-forming emissions and global warming emissions in its U.S. automobile fleet.

Honda is committed to remaining a leader in the development and application of new technologies that address three critical environmental challenges: Improving fuel efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming; reducing smog-forming emissions to address air pollution; and advancing real-world alternatives to gasoline to promote energy sustainability.

Honda is also a leader in promoting alternative fuels and advanced technologies. For the past eight years, Honda has marketed the ultra-clean, natural gas-powered Civic GX primarily to fleets. It is marketed to retail customers in California and New York with the innovative Phill home refueling appliance, allowing consumers to eliminate trips to the gas station.

The Honda FCX is the first fuel cell vehicle to be certified by U.S. EPA for regular commercial use. In 2008, Honda will introduce its next generation fuel cell vehicle based on the futuristically-styled FCX Concept. Honda boasts that with a more compact, powerful and efficient fuel cell stack, the new Honda fuel cell vehicle will rival a gasoline powered vehicle.



Honda’s natural gas powered Civic GX displayed at the 2007 Alternative Fuels & Vehicles Expo

How will drivers obtain fuel for the hydrogen-powered sedan? Home hydrogen fueling, of course. Using natural gas as its energy source, the Honda Energy Station III is a home-based refueling station that, through a series of chemical processes, converts natural gas to hydrogen.

Locally, Al Cashon of Desert Honda is Honda’s alternative fuel and advanced transportation technology vehicle expert. “We have a great line-up of technologies that can meet both fleet and consumer needs,” noted Cashon. For more information, contact Al Cashon at 702-369-3099.

Upcoming Fleet & AFV Events

June 7-9, 2007

Truck Show
Las Vegas, NV
Hosted by Randall Reily Publishing
Website: www.truckshow.com

September 25-28, 2007

Rocky Mountain Fleet Managers Association
Scottsdale, AZ
Hosted by Rocky Mountain Fleet Managers Association
Website: www.rmfm.org

July 24-26, 2007

Fed Fleet 2007
Orlando, FL
Hosted by the U.S. General Services Administration
Website: www.fedfleet.org

October 7-10, 2007

National NGV Conference Summit
Reno, NV
Hosted by NGV America
Website: www.ngvamerica.org

September 10-14, 2007

National Conference of State Fleet Administrators
Hershey, PA
Hosted by NCSFA
Website: www.ncsfa.net

October 16-17, 2007

Clean Vehicle Technology Expo
Ontario, CA
Hosted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District
Website: www.cleanvehicleexpo.com

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LVRCC Stakeholders Among Record Attendance at 2007 Alternative Fuels & Vehicles Conference + Expo

Nearly 20 Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition stakeholders attended the 2007 Alternative Fuels & Vehicles Conference + Expo April 1-4 in Anaheim, California. They were joined by a record crowd, with 1463 registered attendees. Participants came from around the world, including 47 states and 19 countries.

The conference featured three and one-half days of workshops, general sessions, and concurrent sessions and more than 150 speakers. Policy experts, educators, alternative fuel manufacturers and suppliers, government and private fleets participated in the event.

The 2007 AF&V Expo showcased more than 65,000 square feet of exhibits, including vehicle and engine manufacturers, fuel providers, component suppliers, government entities and service providers of the alternative fuels and vehicles industry.

The conference host, Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute (AFVi) headquartered in Las Vegas, noted a significant increase in the numbers of fleets who attended the conference compared to previous years, from about 65 fleets attending in 2005, to more than 400 in 2007. When asked about the reasons for the increase in attendance, AFVi Executive Director Annalloyd Thomason noted the swift increase in the price of gasoline and diesel, combined with more focused attention on emissions and global warming.



LVRCC board members Dan Hyde and Marty O'Connor enjoy 60's rock and roll at the 2007 AF&V Conference.

To preview the conference presentations, visit www.afvi.org.

Las Vegas to Host 2008 AF&V Conference + Expo

At its recent annual conference in Anaheim, Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute (AFVi) announced that the 2008 Alternative Fuels & Vehicles Conference + Expo will be held at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas May 11-14.

The event is the largest conference and trade show in the world featuring all alternative fuels, vehicles and advanced transportation technologies. "We are thrilled to be hosting the 2008 conference in our hometown of Las Vegas," noted Annalloyd Thomason, Executive Director of AFVi. "Las Vegas has long been a national leader in

alternative fuels, and hosting the conference here will allow us to help showcase some of the valley's accomplishments.

"With more than 7,000 alternative fueled vehicles operating in the Las Vegas Valley, what more perfect location than Las Vegas for a national conference dedicated to alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies," said Dan Hyde, Executive Director of the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition. "We are please to be partnering with AFVi on this event." For more information, visit AFVi's website at www.afvi.org.



Valley Sky-Lines is published quarterly for the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition by Thomason & Associates, Inc., a Las Vegas-based alternative fuel consulting firm since 1989. We welcome your news stories and appreciate your comments and suggestions.

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