

# Valley Sky-Lines

July 2006

Volume 5 Issue 2

## Coordinator's Corner



Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition

## We're Standing at the Crossroads

At the 2006 Clean Cities Congress held recently in Phoenix, there was a different kind of excitement in the air than previous years. The alternative fuels and vehicles that coalitions like the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition have diligently advocated for more than a decade were now front and center in the media. This is largely due to the fact that gasoline and diesel are over \$3.00 per gallon nearly everywhere in the country and are predicted by some experts to increase to \$4.00 per gallon within a year.

The conference attracted more than 1,700 government and industry stakeholders, plus interested citizens from the Phoenix and Tucson areas. Mainstream media has picked up the drumbeat for alternative fuels—almost on a daily basis. The momentum that Clean Cities began building in 1993 is definitely picking up steam.

Yet as I listened to keynote speaker Senator John McCain, I realized that we are indeed at a crossroads in the United States and we will need to choose a direction for the future. This choice will affect every man, woman and child living in the U.S. today and for decades to come. It will be made not only by personal choices, but also by the choices and leadership of our federal, state and local government.

The choice is whether to continue a century-long trend of ever increasing dependence on oil for our transportation needs, or whether to do the "right thing" and begin using alternatives like biodiesel, ethanol, natural gas and propane.

To understand just how critical the situation is, I listened to another speaker at the conference. Dr. Robert Hirsch is the Senior Energy Program Advisor for a leading energy consulting company for the U.S. government. He presented results of a study on mitigation strategies for peak oil pro-

duction. He acknowledged that while no one knows for sure, most worldwide experts believe that oil production has either already peaked or will do so in 5-15 years.

Dr. Hirsch examined three scenarios of when the U.S. government might begin to address the problem. The bottom line is that the U.S. must



Sen. John McCain (center), LVRCC Coordinator Dan Hyde (right) and Tucson Clean Cities Coordinator Colleen Crowninshield (left) pose for a historic photo with one of General Motors' FFVs.

begin (or have begun) mitigation strategies 20 years before peaking occurs in order to experience no major shortfall in energy needs.

The crux of the message is this: we **HAVE** to embrace alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies **NOW** to ensure energy supplies for our future and that of our children and grandchildren. The crossroads is no longer before us...we are standing directly in front of it.

What direction will you choose?

*Dan Hyde, Coordinator*

### FUTURE MEETINGS

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**August 3, 2006**  
**Sahara West Library Board Room**  
 9600 W. Sahara Ave.

11:30 a.m. - Board of Directors  
 1:30 p.m. - Stakeholders Mtg.

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**October 5, 2006**  
**Location TBD**  
 11:30 a.m. - Board of Directors  
 1:30 p.m. - Stakeholders Mtg.

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**December 7, 2006**  
**Location TBD**

Annual Holiday Luncheon  
 10:30 a.m. - Board Meeting  
 12:00 p.m. - Luncheon

## Sixteen Local Sinclair Stations Now Offer Biodiesel Fuel

Sinclair Oil Corp. has just helped make the Las Vegas valley a little cleaner.

At a June 21st event, Haycock Petroleum (Sinclair's fuel provider) announced that 16 service stations in the area will now offer biodiesel fuel for those with diesel cars or trucks. Advocates say anyone can go to one of these stations and fill up on this motor fuel.

LVRCC Executive Director, Dan Hyde, was in attendance and told the *Las Vegas Review Journal* that no alterations are needed to use biodiesel.

"You don't have to modify anything to use (biodiesel)," he said. "You just pump it and use it."

Biodiesel is made from animal fats or vegetable oil. Sinclair's fuel is made from soybean oil pressed from soybeans grown in the Midwest and shipped to Biodiesel of Las Vegas. They then convert the oil into 100 percent biodiesel.

These 16 stations are not the first places local diesel vehicle owners can buy biodiesel, but they are the most convenient. Last fall Haycock Petroleum started offering biodiesel at one of its stations downtown, but a prepaid card from Haycock is needed to get fuel at that location.

The price of biodiesel will be about the same as regular diesel because of federal tax incentives linked with alternative fuel choices. At the time of printing, the



Official speakers at the Sinclair/Haycock press event held at the Sinclair station at 7110 S. Durango

national average price for a gallon of standard diesel was \$2.95. Prices in Las Vegas ranged from \$2.89 to \$2.97 per gallon of standard diesel.

Proponents of biodiesel say the fuel burns cleaner than regular petroleum-based diesel and plays a role in reducing the country's reliance on foreign oil.

For more information about Sinclair Oil Corp., visit their website at [www.sinclairoil.com](http://www.sinclairoil.com). For more information about Haycock Petroleum and its distribution of biodiesel, visit [www.haycockpetroleum.com](http://www.haycockpetroleum.com).



"Dino," Sinclair's mascot since the 1950's

*"You don't have to modify anything to use biodiesel. You just pump it and use it."*

*Dan Hyde,  
Executive Director  
Las Vegas Regional  
Clean Cities Coalition*

# 2006 Honda Civic Models Receive “Green” Accolades

A version of Honda’s most famous model received a top honor at the 2006 New York Auto Show.

A panel of 46 international automotive journalists voted the 2006 Honda Civic Hybrid World Green Car at this year’s show.

The Civic Hybrid was chosen in part for its Advanced Technology Partial Zero-Emission Vehicle (AT-PZEV) rating, which is the most stringent emissions standard achieved by a gasoline powered vehicle in the U.S.

According to the Honda website, the 2006 Civic Hybrid is equipped with a continuously variable transmission (CVT), which allows for deactivation of all “four of its cylinders and operate using only the electric motor in certain steady-state cruising situations.”

Al Cashon, Director of Marketing for alternative fuel vehicles at Desert Honda of Las Vegas, said the Civic Hybrid’s EPA mileage rating of 49 city/51 highway is becoming increasingly important as the country is trying to move away from its dependence on foreign oil.



2006 natural gas powered Honda Civic GX

The Civic GX NGV, Honda’s natural gas powered version, has also received accolades for its environmental friendliness. The American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy gave the 2006 GX a high score as one of the 2006 Greenest Vehicles.

Honda says the GX produces nearly zero emissions, and in high polluted areas the exhaust emitted can actually be cleaner than the air outside.

More information on Honda’s hybrid and natural gas vehicles is available at [www.honda.com](http://www.honda.com).

## Upcoming AFV Events

### July 31-August 4, 2006

*Light-Duty NGVs Training Course*  
Morgantown, WV  
Hosted by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium  
Phone: (304) 293-7882  
Website: [www.naftc.wvu.edu](http://www.naftc.wvu.edu)

### October 10-12, 2006

*Natural Gas Vehicle Safety Training Course*  
Downey, CA  
Hosted by the Natural Gas Vehicle Institute  
Phone: (800) 510-6484  
Website: [www.ngvi.com](http://www.ngvi.com)

### September 6-7, 2006

*CNG Fueling Station Operation and Maintenance Certification Course*  
Downey, CA  
Hosted by the Natural Gas Vehicle Institute  
Phone: (800) 510-6484  
Website: [www.ngvi.com](http://www.ngvi.com)

### October 19-20, 2006

*CNG Fueling Station Design Certification Course*  
Las Vegas, NV  
Hosted by the Natural Gas Vehicle Institute  
Phone: (800) 510-6484  
Website: [www.ngvi.com](http://www.ngvi.com)

### September 11-12, 2006

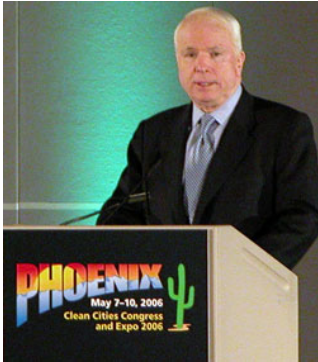
*Global LNG Interchangeability: Challenges, Opportunity, Strategies Conference*  
Houston, TX  
Sponsored by the Gas Technology Institute  
Phone: (847) 768-0940  
Website: [www.gastechnology.org](http://www.gastechnology.org)

### November 7-9, 2006

*IANGV - International Association for NGVs Annual Conference*  
Cairo, Egypt  
Sponsored by NGV 2006  
Phone: +22-2-2734433  
Website: [www.iangv.org](http://www.iangv.org)

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Sen. John Mc Cain (R-AZ)

“It’s time for us to make some tough and hopefully smart choices regarding our energy use and production before it’s too late.”

Senator John McCain (R-AZ),  
Keynote Speaker at the 2006  
Clean Cities Congress in  
Phoenix, Arizona

## LVRCC Board Attends Most Successful Clean Cities Conference Ever

“The Las Vegas Clean Cities Congress, held in Phoenix, Arizona May 7-10, exceeded all previous records for attendance, exhibits and media attention,” according to Annaloyd Thomason, Executive Director of the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute. The annual event brought together more than 1,700 government and industry stakeholders, along with Phoenix area residents. The program has long supported non-petroleum fuels including natural gas, ethanol, biodiesel, propane and electricity, as well as alternative fuel vehicles that can use those fuels.

The Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Board of Directors made a strong showing. Attending were Executive Director Dan Hyde, President Ron Corbett, Vice President Bob Schatz, Secretary Marty O’Connor and directors Dennis Ransel, Jim Zeimet, Jack Owens and Wayne Meissner.

The opening day keynote speech was presented by Senator John McCain (R-AZ). He pointed out what has become a familiar scenario: The United States is dependent on oil and oil demand is growing rapidly worldwide. Senator McCain advocated three paths for improving the energy situation in the U.S. First, he mentioned increasing corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards for vehicles. This would increase the miles per gallon for new vehicles sold in the U.S. Second, he advocated increasing domestic oil supplies—but not at the risk of endangering the environment. And lastly, he encouraged the use of alternative fuels, including natural gas, ethanol, biodiesel and biomethane.

In addition to general session presentations, there were more than 150 presentations made by speakers in concurrent sessions on a wide variety of topics. Downloadable presentations are available on the AFVI website at [www.afvi.org](http://www.afvi.org).

The 2006 Clean Cities Congress and Expo was not all serious, however. One of the highlights of delegates’ free time was the closing night reception

hosted by John Deere and Pacific Gas & Electric Company at a famous place in Phoenix owned by shock rocker Alice Cooper—“Alice Cooper’s town.” Alice himself didn’t show up, but that didn’t keep delegates from enjoying the special entertainment by Bill Ball and his band, “Still Crusin’.” The entertainment was so unique because by night, Bill is drummer and founder of the band. But by day, Mr. Ball is the Transportation Director for the City of Tucson and an avid alternative fuels supporter. What a blast!

Major conference sponsors included Alternative Fuel Vehicle Solutions, American Honda Motor Co., City of Phoenix, Clean Energy, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, John Deere, National Biodiesel Board, National Ethanol Vehicle Council, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Propane Exceptional Energy and Toyota.

Next year’s conference will be held in Anaheim, California April 1-4.



(L-R) LVRCC Board Members Bob Schatz,  
Marty O’Connor, Dan Hyde, Ron Corbett,  
Wayne Meissner and Jim Zeimet.



Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition

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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