

Valley Sky-Lines

February 2006
Volume 5 Issue 1

Coordinator's Corner



Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition

LVRCC to Celebrate Re-Designation

On April 6, the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition (LVRCC) will celebrate yet another milestone! We recently received our five-year re-designation from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as a member of the Clean Cities network.

Every five years DOE requires each of the 88 Coalitions around the United States to go through a re-designation process. (LVRCC's first re-designation was in 2000.) In this process, Coalitions like LVRCC must demonstrate that they have a strong strategic plan in place for increasing the number of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling stations within their area. These plans must include measurable goals and timelines for achieving them.

Not to pat ourselves on the back, but LVRCC has implemented and refined a very successful strategic plan. Back in 1993 when LVRCC was formed, the words alternative fuels and alternative fueled vehicles were barely known in Las Vegas. In fact, LVRCC boasted a whopping 300+ alternative fueled vehicles. Now our total number of AFVs operating in Clark County exceeds 7,000.

Obviously, we've come a long way in the alternative fuels arena since 1993, and we have much to celebrate. One of the

keys to our success is that we continue to educate our community leaders and the public about the tangible benefits of "American" fuels, which is a term we have begun to use. Alternative fuels are American fuels, produced right here in



the U.S. Using American fuels provides not only fuel independence benefits and air quality benefits but also economic benefits because of the jobs they create. American fuels equals American jobs.

We invite you to come celebrate our re-designation as a member of the Clean Cities network with us on April 6 and learn more about our past successes and our future goals for American fuels.

Dan Hyde, Coordinator

FUTURE MEETINGS

April 6, 2006

Las Vegas Valley Water District
1001 S. Valley View Blvd.
10:00 a.m. Re-Designation Event



August 3, 2006

Location TBD

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



October 5, 2006

Location TBD

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

Yellow Checker Star's New Facility Benefits Valley Air Quality

“We’re in the business of bringing people to their destinations, but we’ve also made it our business to improve the air quality in Clark County.”

*Jack Owens,
General Manager
Yellow Checker Star*

Nevada’s largest cab company, Yellow Checker Star Transportation, recently located to a new 60,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility located at 5225 W. Post Road.

The new location brings with it many upgraded amenities including computer technology, advanced telephone systems, safety systems and automated fueling stations.

“We now have a great set-up, with the team, technology and equipment to provide the best service to our customers for years to come,” said Jack Owens, general manager of Yellow Checker Star.

With automated fueling stations, the new facility enables the company to continue being a forerunner in protecting the environment. Yellow Checker Star is the only cab company in Nevada that uses alternative fuel to power its fleets. By using propane, Yellow Checker Star saves the Las Vegas Valley more than 1,000 tons of carbon monoxide and 1,000 tons of particulate matter annually.

“We’re in the business of bringing people to their destinations, but we’ve also made it our business to improve the air quality, which enhances the living conditions for Southern Nevada residents,” said Owens.”

Owens continually strives to improve the transportation industry with fiscally



YCS new facility at 5225 W. Post Road

sound and environmentally friendly policies. He has been with YCS for more than 24 years and has played an integral part in its development. As General Manager, Jack Owens continues to spearhead clean-air efforts by choosing to operate all taxis on propane.

Jack Owens is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition.

For more information about Yellow Checker Star Transportation, visit their website at www.ycstrans.com.

Headlines Around the World

Headlines around the world abound in energy news these days. Here are a few clips making the news.

McCain Calls for Independence from Foreign Oil

Senator McCain says America must explore alternative energy sources to void being held hostage to petroleum-producing countries that are hostile to America. This statement was made in a recent interview on Fox News. "We've got to get back on track to energy independence from foreign oil," said McCain.

Source: Associated Press

E85 Vehicle Market Soars

General Motors builds about 400,000 vehicles that can run on E85 (a blend of 15% gasoline and 85% ethanol) each year. DaimlerChrysler plans to build 11,000 E85 capable vehicles this year. Ford has announced it will build 250,000 E85 capable vehicles in 2006.

Source: Sioux Falls Argus Leader

China vs. U.S. for Energy

The two biggest consumers of crude oil, China and the United States, are competing fiercely for future energy reserves. Recently, Chinese oil companies have made long-term contracts to secure oil reserves in Iran, Syria and Ecuador, all countries which are political adversaries of the U.S. By 2030, Chinese energy imports are projected to jump to 60%.

Source: Los Angeles Times

Upcoming AFV Events

February 5-8, 2006

National Biodiesel Conference & Expo 2006
San Diego, CA
Sponsored by the National Biodiesel Board
Registration: expo2006@biodiesel.org
Phone: (800) 841-5849

April 27-28, 2006

Biodiesel : Investment & Opportunity
St. Louis, MO
Sponsored by Strategic Research Institute
dwest@srinstitute.com
212-967-0095 Ext. 284

February 20-26, 2006

RFA National Ethanol Conference
JW Marriott Las Vegas
Sponsored by the Renewable Fuels Association
Registration: www.ethanolrfa.org.nec.shtml
Phone: (202) 289-3835

May 7-10, 2006

Clean Cities Congress and Expo 2006:
Fueling Clean Transportation
Phoenix, AZ
Sponsored by the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute
Registration: www.afvi.org

April 18-20, 2006

Natural Gas Vehicle Safety Training Course
Las Vegas, NV
Sponsored by NGV Institute
Registration: www.ngvi.com
Phone: (800) 518-6484

May 23-24, 2006

CNG Fueling Station Operation & Maintenance Course
Las Vegas, NV
Sponsored by NGV Institute
www.ngvi.com
Phone: (800) 510-6484

February 2006
Volume 5 Issue 1

NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE FUELS CONFERENCE AND EXPO SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2006

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) kicks off the Congress with an analysis of what America must do to achieve energy independence.

Fleets, industry, governments and anyone with an interest in the purchase and use of alternative fuels and vehicles will find one-stop-shopping at the Clean Cities Congress and Expo 2006 in Phoenix Arizona May 7-10. The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute (AFVI), on behalf of industry and in partnership with the Arizona Clean Cities, will explore transportation options that make economic sense. Senator John McCain of Arizona kicks off the Congress with an analysis of what America must do to achieve energy independence.

The types of fuels represented at the Congress include biodiesel, compressed natural gas, ethanol, hydrogen, liquefied natural gas and propane. Vehicles that are available for participants to see, drive and purchase include flex-fuel, fuel cells, hybrid electric and light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles. For a glimpse into the future, there are also prototype vehicles on display.

One hundred exhibitors are expected to display a wide variety of products and services, all related to the alternative fuels industry. Additionally, there will be a Ride-n-Drive where OEMs invite attendees to test drive the latest alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs).

The Clean Cities Congress is meeting at the Phoenix Convention Center. That is where the educational sessions and activities will take place. On Sunday, May 7, there will be two in-depth training sessions. The first is an AFV fleet tutorial, designed

as an introduction to the fuels and technologies available today.

There are more than twenty-five sessions that provide overviews of the fuels, vehicles and technologies; emissions benefits; quantification of the business case; explanations of the fuel characteristics, regional assessments of fuel costs and supplies; and details of the life-cycle cost benefits of AFVs that are available for purchase today.

In addition to the robust educational offerings, some of the most memorable moments are the networking events. The opening night reception, sponsored by General Motors, takes place in the Bentley Project, a chic new gallery located in a building that began as a commercial laundry facility in 1912.

More information on alternative fuels and the Congress is available at www.afvi.org.



Senator John McCain (R-AZ)



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.

6755 W. Charleston Blvd #B • Las Vegas, NV 89146 • fax (702) 254-4630 • lara@thomasonassoc.com