

# Valley Sky-Lines

May, 2004

Volume 4, Issue 2

## Coordinator's Corner

By Dan Hyde



Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition

## “The Bad News...& the Good News”

Recently, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared Clark County a “basic” ozone nonattainment area. The “basic” designation is the least serious of five designations. (The Los Angeles basin, by comparison, has the worst designation as a “severe” nonattainment area.)

This is a bad news/good news story for alternative fuels. The bad news is that Clark County officially has been named as being out of compliance with EPA’s air quality standards. Clark County officials now have three years to submit a plan for bringing air quality into compliance with EPA’s standards. If the county fails, it could be forced to implement a number of control measures, including tougher controls on diesel equipment and vehicles and fuel requirements.

The good news is that the alternative fuels of choice in the Las Vegas Valley—especially compressed natural gas and propane—have been proven to dramatically reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions from vehicles, which are two of the primary “ingredients” required for the formation of ozone pollution.

These fuels are readily available at fuel-

ing stations strategically located across the valley, and serve the more than 6,000 AFVs currently operating on the roads in Clark County today.



*The EPA Ozone Report lays the ground work for planning and analysis to maintain the nation's ozone standard.*

The Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition is hopeful that Clark County will take a closer look at the role AFVs can play in helping solve our ozone air quality problem. In the Los Angeles California area, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has developed a strong set of fleet rules coupled with a significant incentive program to encourage the use of alternative fuels, especially clean-burning natural gas. If AFVs are part of the plan to help improve the severe air quality in Los Angeles, imagine what they could do in Las Vegas.

For example, the SCAQMD’s Fleet Rule 1194 required that beginning July 1, 2001, airport fleet operators providing

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

**June 3, 2004**

**Stakeholders' and Board Meetings**

11:30 a.m. Board of Directors  
1:30 p.m. Stakeholders  
East Las Vegas Community Center  
250 N. Eastern Avenue

\* \* \*

**August 5, 2004**

**Stakeholders' and Board Meetings**

11:30 a.m. Board of Directors  
1:30 p.m. Stakeholders  
Mt. Crest Neighborhood Center  
4701 N. Durango

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# LVRCC Hosts AFV Symposium

*“With the costs of traditional fuels like gasoline and diesel soaring, the time is right for passenger transportation companies to consider alternative fuels.”*

More than 50 fleet operators and other interested parties attended the LVRCC symposium, “AFVs for Passenger Transportation on April 1. The event was sponsored by Clark County Department of Air Quality Management and Cummins Intermountain.



**Honda Civic Hybrid Vehicle**

The agenda for the symposium was designed to answer the basic questions about alternative fuels that would be posed by passenger transportation fleets. There were presentations from AFV vehicle and engine manufacturers, as well as fuel providers, about the types of alternative fuel vehicles available for purchase today as well as various options for fueling the vehicles.

In addition to hearing presentations, attendees had the opportunity to “kick the tires” of some real-live AFV taxis, shuttle buses and trolleys.

Jack Owens, General Manager of Yellow Checker Star Transportation, encouraged his colleagues in the passenger transportation industry to strongly consider alternative fuels. “We’ve been using propane as our primary fuel since the early 1970’s and it’s been both a good economic decision for our company and the right thing to do for the environment,” noted Owens. Yellow Checker Star has been nationally recognized for its leadership in the alternative fuels industry.



**Jack Owens, General Manager, Yellow Checker Star**

“With the costs of traditional fuels like gasoline and diesel soaring, the time is right for passenger transportation companies to consider alternative fuels,” noted Dan Hyde, Executive Director of the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition. “We’re excited about expanding the use of alternative fuels into the private sector—especially into



**Ride & Drive Vehicles at the AFV Symposium**

passenger transportation fleets like taxi companies, airport shuttle bus companies and hotel shuttle bus service providers.” Their visibility throughout the community—and with the millions of visitors to Las Vegas every year is important to help spread the word that AFVs are important contributors to our quality of life.”

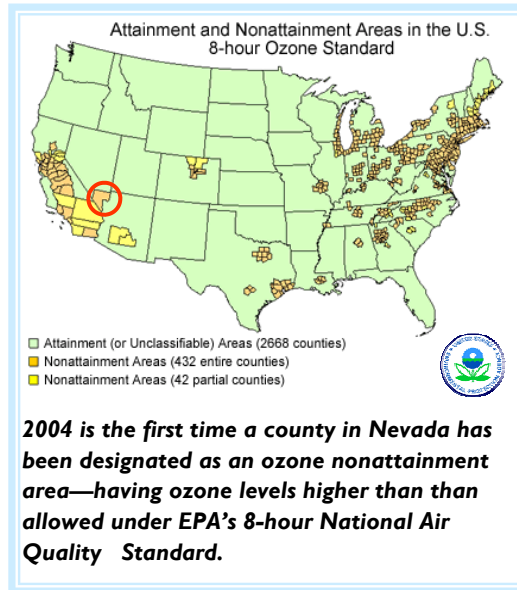
**For more information about AFVs for passenger transportation, visit our website at [www.lasvegascleancities.org](http://www.lasvegascleancities.org).**

# “The Bad News...& the Good News”

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limousine or transit shuttle services begin purchasing vehicles that meet the lowest emissions standards. The rule also provided incentives for those airport fleet operators voluntarily purchasing AFVs sooner than required.

While we’re not advocating that Clark County implement the exact measures adopted by California’s South Coast Air Quality Management District, we do think that there are lessons that can be learned from their experience. The most basic of those lessons is that AFVs can play a major role in improving air quality in the Las Vegas Valley—which helps bring some “good news” to a “bad news” story.



**“With the Clean Air Rules of 2004, we are opening a new chapter in our 35-year commitment to cleaning the air.”**

**- US EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt**

## Upcoming AFV Events

### June 7 - 8, 2004

*Natural Gas Fueling Station Operation & Maintenance Certification Course*  
Las Vegas, NV  
Sponsored by NGV Institute  
Registration: [www.ngvi.com](http://www.ngvi.com) or call (800) 510-6484

### July 20 - 22, 2004

*FedFleet 2004: The 4th National Federal Fleet Manager Workshop & Information Fair*  
New York, NY  
Sponsored by Federal Fleet Policy Council & USGSA  
Registration: [www.fedfleet.org](http://www.fedfleet.org) or (810)315-4333

### June 9 - 10, 2004

*Fuel Cell 2004*  
Denver, CO  
Presented by Fuel Cell Magazine  
Registration: [www.fuelcellmagazine.com](http://www.fuelcellmagazine.com)

### August 23 - 26, 2004

*Natural Gas Vehicle Safety Training Course*  
Downey, CA  
Sponsored by NGV Institute  
Registration: [www.ngvi.com](http://www.ngvi.com) or call (800) 510-6484

### June 22 - 25, 2004

*International Fuel Ethanol Workshop & Tradeshow*  
Madison, WI  
Sponsored by BBI International  
Registration: [www.bbiethanol.com](http://www.bbiethanol.com) or call (719)942-4353

### September 14 - 15, 2004

*Natural Gas Fueling Station Technology Forum*  
Las Vegas, NV  
Sponsored by NGV Institute  
Registration: [www.ngvi.com](http://www.ngvi.com) or call (800) 510-6484

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# Clean Cities Celebrates Decade of Drive

Clean Cities completed its 10th National Clean Cities Conference and Expo in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida May 2-5. The annual event is widely anticipated in the industry because it brings together suppliers, vehicle fleet operators, federal, state, and local government partners, and private sector organizations with Clean Cities coordinators to learn about incentives, prospective buyers, and new technologies. This year saw the highest attendance ever, with more than 1,300 delegates attending.

In honor of the organization's 10-year anniversary, the conference commemorated the past and explored the future of Clean Cities. Following a series of meetings to discuss new direction for the Clean Cities program, the organization announced a new emphasis on advancing idle reduction, improving fuel economy, using fuel blends and hybrid vehicles. The conference also featured excellent sessions on hydrogen, alternative fuels, industry and regulatory issues.

Copies of all the conference presentations will be posted on the Clean Cities website, which has been changed to [www.eere.doe.gov/cleancities](http://www.eere.doe.gov/cleancities).

## Welcome New Members

LVRCC is pleased to welcome four new stakeholder organizations to our membership.

Clark County Department of Aviation  
Mike Seed, Purchasing Manager  
[mikes@mccarran.com](mailto:mikes@mccarran.com)

Specialty Vehicles  
Nancy Munoz, President  
[nancymunoz@specialtyvehicles.com](mailto:nancymunoz@specialtyvehicles.com)

Nevada Motor Transport Assoc.  
Ron Levine, Assistant Managing Director

Amy Levine, Special Programs Manager  
[nmtasouth@aol.com](mailto:nmtasouth@aol.com)

Nevada Development Authority  
Perry Ursem, Vice President Economic Development  
[pursem@nevadadevelopment.org](mailto:pursem@nevadadevelopment.org)



US GSA Auction at the 10th National Clean Cities Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL.



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. We look forward to hearing from you!

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