

Valley Sky-Lines

June, 2003

Volume 3, Issue 2



Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition

Coordinator's Corner

A New Las Vegas Reputation: National Leader for Alternative Fuels

When you think of Las Vegas, you think of bright lights...big resorts...legalized gambling...lavish entertainment. You think of a vacation spot in the desert—a place to come to relax, see the sights, let your hair down, win a jackpot.

But Las Vegas is gaining another reputation—one that is building momentum among the transportation energy community. Las Vegas is quickly building a reputation for being a national leader for alternative fuels.

At the recent National Clean Cities Conference held in Palm Springs, Las Vegas hit several jackpots. First, the Clark County School District received another award for being the largest school district in the country using biodiesel to power more than 1,200 buses. (See related article, p. 3). The Clark County School District was one of nine organizations to receive DOE's prestigious National Partners Award.

The Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition also received a cash award from General Motors for its purchases of GM vehicles and its successful outreach event held for fleet managers. (See article, p. 2). It is important to note that Las Vegas was one of the top five award winners in the country.

But beyond our recent winning streak (of awards, that is), Las Vegas is building its reputation as a leader for alternative fuels through its real-world commitment and actions to increase the number of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) operating in the Las Vegas Valley every year, thereby decreasing our dependence on imported oil AND reaping the added benefit of improving air quality. There are over 5,400 AFVs operating in the Valley in both government and private industry fleets. (Visit www.lasvegascleancities.org for more information.)

Las Vegas is also looking to the future of alternative fuels, especially in the area of hydrogen. The City of Las Vegas' hydrogen fueling station, a public/private partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. and Plug Power, was recently featured in the May issue of "Natural Gas Fuels" magazine as a forward-thinking strategy to bridge the gap between existing alternative fuels and the hydrogen economy.

In short, Las Vegas is one of the most successful marketplaces for alternative fuels in the country, thanks to the leadership, energy and commitment of our coalition's stakeholders. So the next time you think about Las Vegas, think about bright lights...hot summer nights....and alternative fuels.

FUTURE MEETINGS

August 7, 2003
Clark County Government Center
 500 S. Grand Central Parkway
 Pueblo Room
 11:30 a.m. - Board of Directors
 1:30 p.m. - Stakeholders

♦ ♦ ♦

October 9, 2003
Pat Clark Pontiac GMC
 2575 E. Sahara Avenue
 Conference Room
 11:30 a.m. - Board of Directors
 1:30 p.m. - Stakeholders

♦ ♦ ♦

December 4, 2003
 Location TBD
 10:00 a.m. - Board of Directors
 11:45 a.m. - Stakeholders Lunch

Virtually all of the Las Vegas Valley Water District's diesel powered automotive vehicles operate on biodiesel.

Water District's Success: A Cover Story

A recent edition of "American City and County" magazine featured fleet manager Doug Keene and the Las Vegas Valley Water District's AFV program. Highlighted was Doug Keene's solution to the "clean air versus cost" conundrum by converting 230 of his fleet's 757 vehicles and equipment to operate on biodiesel. Virtually all of the District's diesel powered automotive vehicles, as well as its construction equipment like backhoes and front-end loaders, currently operate on biodiesel.



Fleet Manager Doug Keene with a few of the Water District's 230 biodiesel vehicles.

LVVWD was the first fleet in the Valley to begin using biodiesel. "The Water District actually helped bring biodiesel to Las Vegas," noted Keene. "We have a responsibility for air quality for both today and the fu-

ture. We are helping to pave the way for other fleets to successfully use biodiesel."

With increasingly tight budgets, city, county and state governments are turning more and more to biodiesel as the alternative fuel of choice for medium and heavy-duty vehicles. Switching to biodiesel doesn't require mechanical modifications to the vehicles but still allows covered fleets to satisfy Energy Policy Act and/or state government requirements.

In Las Vegas, biodiesel is provided to fleets by Haycock Distributing. The fuel is produced using recycled cooking oils obtained from local hotels.

For more information about the LVVWD's use of biodiesel, contact Doug Keene at (702) 258-3151.

LVRCC Wins \$3,000 Award from GM

General Motors recently announced that the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition was one of the top five recipients of cash incentives for Clean Cities Coalitions. The \$3,000 award was announced at the 9th National Clean Cities Conference and Exposition held in Palm Springs May 18-21. Incentives were based on an evaluation of Clean Cities Coalitions whose members actively marketed and purchased General Motors alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) during the 2002 model year.

To win the award, LVRCC members not only purchased a significant number of GM AFVs during the qualifying period, but also held a highly successful fleet outreach

meeting last June, with more than 90 attendees.

"We are extremely excited about being one of the top five award winners in the GM program," noted Dan Hyde, LVRCC coordinator. "These funds will be used to support additional outreach efforts to fleet operators who are currently not operating AFVs."

The top award of \$15,000 was presented to the Twin Cities Clean Cities Coalition in Minnesota for its strong efforts towards marketing flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) capable of operating on either E85 (a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline) or gasoline.

Clark County School District Wins National Partners Award

The Clark County School District accepted yet another award for its use of biodiesel to power its school buses. During the May 22 awards breakfast at the National Clean Cities Conference, the

school district received the Clean Cities National Partners Award for using biodiesel in more than 1,200 school buses operating in Clark County. Accepting the award on behalf of the school dis-

trict was Frank Giordano, Coordinator of Vehicle Maintenance.

Other award winners included Valley Metro Transit (Phoenix), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Washington, DC), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Chicago), Sky Harbor International Airport (Phoenix), Rockland Materials (Phoenix), Salt Lake City International Airport (Salt Lake City), Delhi CNG Program (Delhi, India) and Curtis Donaldson of CleanFUEL USA.

Over 1,200 school buses in Clark County operate on biodiesel fuel.



Frank Giordano, Coordinator of Vehicle Maintenance for Clark County School District, accepts a National Partners Award from U.S. Assistant Undersecretary of Energy Tom Gross.

Upcoming AFV Events

June 26 - 28, 2003

International Trucking Show
Las Vegas, NV
Sponsored by Independent Trade Show Management
(800) 227-5992

September 29 - October 1, 2003

21st National NGV Conference and Exhibition
Las Vegas, NV
Sponsored by the Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition
202-824-7365

July 30 - August 1, 2003

American Coalition for Ethanol Annual Conference
Sioux Falls, SD
Sponsored by American Coalition for Ethanol
(605) 334-3381

October 6 - 9, 2003

Natural Gas Fueling Station Education & Certification
Las Vegas, NV
Sponsored by NGV Institute
Registration: www.ngvi.com or (800) 510-6484

September 16 - 17, 2003

Natural Gas Fueling Station Operation and Maintenance Forum
Las Vegas, NV
Sponsored by NGV Institute
Registration: www.ngvi.com or (800) 510-6484

October 27 - 29, 2003

Natural Gas Vehicle Safety Training Course
Las Vegas, NV
Sponsored by NGV Institute
Registration: www.ngvi.com or (800) 510-6484

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9th National Clean Cities Conference and Exposition is a Huge Success!

The LVRCC was well represented at the National Clean Cities Conference, with 15 delegates attending.

More than 750 delegates attended the 9th National Clean Cities Conference and Exposition May 18-21 in Palm Springs, California. "Turn Up the Heat for Alternative Fuels" was the theme for the annual event, and the promise was met both figuratively and literally!

As temperatures soared well over 100 degrees, Clean Cities Conference delegates had several opportunities to get up-to-date on the latest in AFV developments from both a policy perspective as well as a technology view. Hydrogen—and its relationship to other alternative fuels—was a major theme that flowed throughout the conference agenda topics.

Monday's keynote speaker was Jeremy Rifkin, noted speaker and author of "The Hydrogen Economy." Rifkin noted that first there was wood, then there was coal, now there's oil and natural gas. But none of these fuels is renewable, and like the others before it, Rifkin said "There's another energy regime at the front door—hydrogen."

Rifkin cited three key oil-related problems—global warming, Third-World debt and the Middle East. Rifkin believes that hydrogen will be a major solution to all three problems. When asked who will lead the hydrogen economy, Rifkin predicted that it will be Europe because of the European Union's ambitious goals for renewable electricity use and greenhouse gas reduction.

However, concurrent session presentations on the topic of hydrogen noted that, realistically, hydrogen vehicles will not be commercially available in the U.S. until 2017 at the earliest. In the meantime, oil imports are projected to increase another 50%, making a strong case for using the current mix of alternative fuels as an effective means to decreasing imported oil.

The 9th National Clean Cities Conference featured



Dan Hyde, Clean Cities Coordinator, visits with an alive-and-well Marilyn Monroe at the National Clean Cities Conference in Palm Springs.

lots of surprises and fun activities, too. A special appearance by actress (and former electric vehicle driver) Suzanne Somers was the highlight of Tuesday morning. Dennis Weaver, star of the popular television series *Gunsmoke* and *McCloud*, made two appearances at the conference. Marilyn Monroe was on hand to liven up Wednesday morning's activities—or at least our coordinator's eyes. The U.S. General Services Administration conducted a live auction of 24 AFVs sold to the highest bidders.

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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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