



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #V.C

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2015
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLEAN CITIES PROGRAM UPDATE

Student Internships through the Clean Cities University Workforce Development Program

The Clean Cities Program has been working with Argonne National Laboratory for the past few years to provide internship opportunities for promising university students. Each intern is paired with a Clean Cities Coalition where he or she will learn valuable industry skills, especially related to alternative/renewable fuels, outreach about alternative transportation, and emerging vehicle technologies. Southeast Florida Clean Cities was fortunate to have been awarded an intern this summer. University of Florida student Sofia Thordin assisted in overhauling the Coalition's webpage, wrote articles for a new edition of the Coalition newsletter, created an idle reduction campaign, and participated in the premier first responder training class related to alternative fuel vehicles. While Sofia has concluded this very successful internship and prepares to return to Gainesville where she will complete her senior year coursework, the Coalition has just been awarded another internship for the 2015/16 school year. As Chair of the Coalition, Commissioner Asseff along with Coordinator Chris Heshmati, look forward to working with another student who will continue Sofia's work.

Clean Cities National Parks Initiative

The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coordinator was a guest speaker at a recent Climate Friendly Parks Workshop in Big Cypress National Preserve. Her presentation on "Greening our Rides" was a component of the Green Parks Plan being developed by staff at the Preserve. A lively brainstorming session yielded the following starting points for reducing transportation-related GHG emission:

- more employee commuting options,
- public transportation options for access to Big Cypress,
- replacement of conventional mowers with propane,
- electric car charging infrastructure,
- transition of all-terrain vehicles to utility task vehicles, and
- development of an idle reduction campaign for Preserve visitors.

Southeast Florida is currently working with other National Parks in the region to develop project applications for Clean Cities National Parks Initiative funding (www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/national_parks.html).

First Responder Training in Alternative Fuels

In June, the Coalition partnered with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) and Central Florida Clean Cities to host its premier first responder training class in alternative fuels. Held at the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue headquarters, the training featured a certified instructor who provided classroom instruction. The lecture was followed by an on-site display of electric vehicles, a CNG-powered refuse truck, and a propane school bus which were loaned out for the 8-hour session by Coalition members Florida Power & Light Company, Waste Management and Broward County Schools.

With nearly twenty firefighters in attendance from both the City of Delray Beach and Palm Beach County (PBC) Fire Rescue, the daylong workshop appeared to build confidence and reduce lingering anxieties about responding to scenes of AFV crashes. Many of the first responders remarked that they hope for more training sessions in the future. As one firefighter commented, "This [training] is the stuff we really get excited about, this is the stuff we like." Featuring the instructor and the displayed vehicles, an instructional video was created by PBC Fire Rescue's professional videographer for viewing of additional first responders around the region and state. Additional NAFTC training opportunities are forthcoming over the next several months as Florida Coalitions access additional first responder training funds made available by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Idle Reduction Campaign

Southeast Florida Clean Cities has started a new idle reduction campaign that focuses on children. This campaign makes use of the IdleBox Toolkit created by the U.S. Department of Energy and is highlighted by a very fun book provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entitled, ***The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up***. Our first "Taking Green Ideas for a Ride" story time session was held on July 30, 2015 at the North Dade Regional Library, with the help of the Children's Department Manager, Ricci Yuhico. Story time was enjoyed by the kids, parents and older siblings after which each child received a fact-filled bookmark to color and an air quality/anti-idling sticker which was worn with a smile. This is the first of many "Taking Green Ideas for a Ride" story time sessions and we are excited to continue this idle reduction campaign in schools and other libraries while continuing to ramp up idle reduction efforts with fleet administrators in the region.

E85 Ethanol and Compressed Natural Gas Featured in Summer Coalition Meetings

Southeast Florida Clean Cities hosted two meetings over the summer for its stakeholders.

The June meeting, co-hosted by Protec Fuel was held at the Signature Grand in Davie, Florida. The Town of Davie Mayor, Judy Paul welcomed the attendees and Key Biscayne Commissioner and South Florida Regional Councilmember Frank Caplan presented material on regional sustainability. Other presenters discussed idle reduction and telematics (Verizon), superior fleet management (100 Best Fleets), renewable fuels (Archer Daniels Midland), and fueling with E85 and E15 ethanol fuels (Protec Fuel).

In August, Coalition stakeholders met at the Council offices to learn about the benefits of compressed natural gas (CNG) with:

- updates from a local business that built its own CNG station and is converting its entire fleet to CNG (City Furniture),
- discussion of new developments in CNG such as adsorbed natural gas - a process that may create more efficient and safer storage of the fuel (ACF Power), and
- information about construction of new public CNG stations in Florida that will not only fuel growing numbers of CNG vehicles in the AGL Resources fleet but will also be available to public and private sectors interested in this alternative fuel (Patriot CNG and Florida City Gas/AGL Resources).

Upcoming Events

The Drive Electric Week Tailgate Event at Pinecrest Gardens will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please click onto the following link to volunteer with the Village of Pinecrest and our Coalition, to bring your own EV to display, or to learn more about the festivities: <https://driveelectricweek.org/event.php?eventid=388>. This will be a fun-filled family event for all, and we are planning for a sunny day!!

Monday, October 19, 2015, the Coalition will feature its 2015 Alternative Fuel Vehicle Expo at the Florida Department of Transportation, District Four headquarters. The event will include guest speakers renowned in the field of AFVs, an AFV vehicle display, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the District's new electric charging infrastructure.

Please contact Christine Heshmati of Council staff (cheshmati@sfrpc.com) for further information about Clean Cities' activities.

Information only.