

## **NC Alternative Fuels Group Meeting call 9/20/06**

### **Call Summary**

**Participants:** Maria Rapoza (NC Biotechnology Center), Mike Arnold, (Lt Gov. Office); Grady Truett (Gaston Public Schools); Rene Lana, (NC Military Business Center), Denise Choy, (Environmental Defense); Donnie Redmond, (NC DAQ), Vicki Chandler, (DAQ); Bill Eaker/ Jim Stoke/ Carrie Runser Turner / (Land Of Sky COG) ; Tobin Freid, (Triangle Clean Cities/TJCOG); Lorelei Elkins,(Triad air Awareness); Frank Willey, (NC Biofuels, Seaboard NC), Brian Sharager, (US EPA); Heather Hildebrant, (NCDAQ); Drew Harbinson, (NCDOT), Ginger Booker, (PTCOG); Caroline Howe, (Lt Gov. Office); Cynthia Moseley, (SEO); Jeff Ramsdell, (ASU); Susan King Cope, (NC American Lung Assoc); Charles Hall (NC Soybean Producers Association); Anne Tazewell , (NC solar Center) Total :23

### **Purpose: NC Alternative Fuels Group**

The Purpose of the NC Alternative Fuels Group (AFG) is to share information about alternative fuel related activities through bi monthly calls. The idea is to facilitate and coordinate NC activities. In turn NC AFG information will be relayed to a broader multi state group- the Southeast Alternative Fuels Task Force (SEAFTF)

### **Background: Southeast Alternative Fuels Task Force**

In 2001, the Governors of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee entered into a Southern Air Principles agreement, which recognized that regional air quality problems must be addressed through regional approaches. Much work has been accomplished including a final report in 2002 with recommendations for a joint multi-pollutant strategy to address ozone pollution, acid deposition to the problems with reduced visibility. Mobile strategies included innovative transportation options like alternative fuels and vehicle technologies. The Southeastern Alternative Fuels Task Force (SEAF task force) formed three work groups following a Forum held in Asheville, North Carolina. The subcommittees are: Infrastructure, Outreach, and Vehicles/Fleets with representatives from state agencies and the private sector.

The Outreach committee has plans to conduct a bi-annual workshop in each state to encourage broader use and availability of biofuels in the Southeast. The target audience includes fleet managers, fuel providers, and other interested stakeholders. Three regional workshops are planned for April 2005, 2007 and 2009. Another product this committee plans to create by April 2005 is a brochure that will encourage participation by public and private fleets, vehicle manufacturers, fuel producers and suppliers, retail marketers, and private individuals.

Important for the success of the SEAF is the need to compile state specific alternative fuel activity information and to serve as a clearinghouse and education center. The Infrastructure and Vehicle and Fleets committees developed a comprehensive database and series of maps of alternative fuel stations. The 2010 plan will focus on biofuel refueling development along major

highways in the four states that are publicly accessible for biodiesel and ethanol fuels. The biofuels are of particular interest because there are a large number of vehicles already on the road that can use these fuels as well as the relatively low cost of infrastructure development.

Guided by the steering committee, the Outreach committee hosted the 2005 Southeast Biofuels Workshop held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on June 6-7, 2005. The intent of the workshop was to address key barriers and questions to the supply and use of biofuels. The event drew over 200 people with nearly a quarter traveling from North Carolina. The SEAFTF and work groups continue to meet on a monthly basis via conference calls.

## **U.S DOE Grant Award for Biofuels Infrastructure**

### Summary of the Southeast Ethanol and Biodiesel Corridor Project (SEBI):

The Triangle Clean Cities Coalition (TCCC) headed up the effort to secure funds for ethanol (E85) and biodiesel (B20) public infrastructure on highway corridors throughout NC, SC, GA, and TN. TCCC worked with Clean Cities coordinators in the four states to identify stations willing to put in the infrastructure and estimate costs. The stations have approximately 2 years to install or retrofit their equipment and then must provide data on fuel prices, sales, etc. for 2 additional years.

The project will fund approximately 21 E85 installations/conversions and 14 B20 installations/conversions throughout the 4 states. In NC, we will fund 8 E85 projects and 9 B20 projects. While there might be some changes in station locations, it is estimated that these projects will include stations in:

Arden, NC (2 E85 and 2 B20)  
Asheville, NC (1 E85 and 3 B20)  
Gaston, NC (1 E85 and 1 B20)  
Gastonia, NC (1 E85 and 1 B20)  
Lenoir, NC (1 E85 and 1 B20)  
Raleigh, NC (1 E85 and 1 B20)  
Salisbury, NC (1 E85)

## **Clean Fuels Advanced Technology Program**

In 2006 the North Carolina Solar Center (NCSC) at North Carolina State University (NCSU) was awarded \$1,600,000 in federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT) to establish a three-year Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) Program.

The CFAT Program will rebate applicants for projects that reduce mobile related emissions in eligible North Carolina counties. Public and private entities whose mobile emission reduction projects take place in the following counties are eligible to receive CFAT project funding: Cabarrus, Catawba, \*Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin,

Gaston, Granville, Guilford, \* Haywood, \*Iredell, Johnston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Nash, Orange, Person, Rowan, \*Swain, Union, Wake.

\* Represents partial counties. The non-attainment portion of Swain and Haywood Counties is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary. The non-attainment portion of both Chatham and Iredell are defined by townships from the Census. In Chatham the eligible townships are Baldwin, Williams, New Hope and Center. In Iredell County the non-attainment portions are Davidson and Coddle Creek.

The program will conduct education and outreach activities to increase awareness about air quality concerns and strategies to reduce transportation related emissions. The program will also establish Mobile Clean Air Renewable Energy (CARE) awards to recognize exemplary efforts across the state that have increased the use of mobile-related emission reduction technologies and practices. Support for the CFAT program is being provided by \$200,000 in funding from the NC Division of Air Quality (DAQ), \$200,000 from the State Energy Office (SEO) and from program grant recipients. Cost share will be demonstrated as requests for reimbursements are submitted to NC DOT by NCSU. The CFAT program will operate on a rebate basis. Successful applicants will be awarded a set not-to-exceed amount and will be reimbursed when they submit invoices as the project is undertaken or completed.

### **CFAT Eligible Technologies**

The CFAT program is being designed to be as flexible and accommodating as possible to reach public and private sector applicants that have an interest and commitment to mobile- related emission reduction technologies. Technologies eligible for CFAT program reimbursement include:

- Incremental cost of alternative fuel vehicles
- Refueling infrastructure for alternative fuels
- Idle reduction technologies- truck stop electrification & on board idle reduction technologies
- Hybrid electric vehicles
- On-road and off-road diesel retrofits

*The first Request for Proposals (RFP) will represent Year One funding for the three year program. Additional RFPs will be issued in 2007 & 2008. The first RFP is anticipated to be released in October, 2006. **2006 funds available: \$338,807***

### **Announcements**

#### **Promotional Materials**

NC Soybean Producers Association has biodiesel bumper stickers and other promotional items to give away. Contact Charles Hall 919-839- 5700 for more information

#### **E85 Impala Coming to the State Energy Office**

The State Energy Office is receiving an Impala E85 capable flex fuel vehicle from the Governor's Ethanol Coalition. The wrapped vehicle provides a great opportunity to educate

about E85 and renewable fuels. It will be on display on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Museum of Natural Sciences as part of the “Space : A Journey to our Future” . A media event is also tentatively scheduled to take place at the State Fair on October 12.

### **2007 Mobile Source Emission Reduction Grant (MSERG)**

Applications for the 2007 MSERGs are available at the NC Division of Air Quality website [http://daq.state.nc.us/motor/ms\\_grants/](http://daq.state.nc.us/motor/ms_grants/)

- Approximately \$800,000-\$900,000 is available for this year’s solicitation which focuses on reduction of mobile emissions.

### **Truck Stop Electrification**

A second *Idle Aire* ( advanced truck stop electrification) project opened September 12th at a T & A Truck Stop ( I 40 Exit 138 near Greensboro ) This is about 30 miles west of existing Idle Aire facility in Mebane

IdleAire's Advanced Travel Center Electrification (ATE) System allows truck drivers to turn off their engines instead of idling them to heat/cool the cab and use in-cab accessories while resting or waiting to load or unload. Shutting off the engine saves the truck owners fuel & money, eliminates emissions associated with the extended idling of heavy-duty diesel trucks, and improves drivers' living and working conditions. Learn more about Idle Aire at:

<http://www.idleaire.com/about/>

Another ATE project is planned for Salisbury, NC.

### **SAVE THE DATE ~ 2007 Events: State Energy Conference & More**

- On March 8<sup>th</sup> the State Energy Office is hosting annual Sustainable Energy Conference.
- Dr Jeff Ramsdell volunteered to speak about Biofuels and various feed stocks. In 2006 Appalachian State University won a \$75,000 award from the US EPA for a student designed biodiesel processor. Contact Jeff [ramsdellje@appstate.edu](mailto:ramsdellje@appstate.edu)
- A conference about alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies is being planned for Greensboro in Spring 2007. Anne Tazewell will contact Lorelei Elkins about working with Piedmont Area Rapid Transit who may also be planning a related event in the region. A firm date will be announced soon.
- The Council of Government Directors under leadership of Greg Godard is interested in helping to organize an alternative fuel related event. Ginger Booker will follow up with event planners.

### **NC Biodiesel Production Facilities**

Several plants are opening or nearing completion including:

- Piedmont Biofuels Industrial- 1 m/g/y biodiesel production from nearby Chatham county chicken fat <http://www.biofuels.coop/industrial.php> Sept 25<sup>th</sup> was their grand opening celebration. Production is expected very shortly
- Foothills Bio-energies, LLC- a Lenoir based production facility with the capacity to produce up to 6 m/g/y <http://www.foothillsbio-energies.com/>

- Smokey Mountain Biofuels – 1 m/g/y production in Dillsboro NC (WNC) using soy oil as a feed stock <http://www.smokymountainbiofuels.com/>. Grand opening is October 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Biomass Roadmap Meeting**

The NC Biomass Council Policy, Education & Outreach Committee is meeting at the NC Farm Bureau in Raleigh on October 18 at 10:00 to discuss a Biomass Roadmap for NC. Contact Mitch Peele at 919-788-1004 if you would like to participate in this policy meeting or Kurt Creamer at 919-515-4092 if you would like more information about or to get involved in the NC Biomass Council.

### **Energy Independence and Economic Development Conference**

On Nov 15, 2006 Western North Carolina University in Cullowhee is hosting a day long conference that will feature Lt Gov Beverly Perdue and other speakers about alternative fuels and renewable energy. More information and registration at <http://www.wcu.edu/ppi/>

**Next NC Alternative Fuels Group Call : November 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00-12:00 .** Call in number is 919-515-7152. Send in suggestions/announcements for agenda items to [anne\\_tazewell@ncsu.edu](mailto:anne_tazewell@ncsu.edu). Please join us! If this message was forwarded to you email Anne Tazewell to be added to the NC AFG.

*Thank you!*