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## **CLEAN FUEL ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FUNDED Over \$250,000 Awarded to Reduce Mobile Emissions**

Raleigh, N.C. - A total of \$261,828 has been awarded by the North Carolina Solar Center at NC State University through the Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) Project. The funds will be used for eight projects that will reduce transportation related emissions in counties that do not meet national ambient air quality standards. Two additional projects, totaling another \$125,000, are expected to be announced soon. The CFAT Project is an initiative funded by the N.C. Department of Transportation, State Energy Office, and Division of Air Quality that will directly reduce harmful emissions in addition to providing related educational outreach. The first round of awards includes neighborhood electric vehicles, diesel retrofit technologies, biodiesel refueling infrastructure and truck stop electrification.

Two CFAT projects involve the use of neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs), which have no tail pipe emissions, may be operated on streets with speed limits of up to 35 miles per hour and are charged through ordinary 110-volt outlets. The City of Winston Salem is purchasing four NEVs as the primary transportation for Parking Enforcement employees. The NEVs will replace four gasoline vehicles used in the downtown business area to enforce parking ordinances. Wake County Government has also been awarded funds to purchase six NEVs to replace current gasoline-powered vehicles in County parks. The NEVs will be used as utility vehicles and incorporated into environmental programs.

Duke Energy is purchasing two hybrid electric/diesel aerial trucks with CFAT funding assistance. These vehicles will reduce emissions, conserve fuel, and help support commercialization of hybrid technology in the heavy-duty truck market. The typical aerial utility truck spends a significant amount of time idling at job sites to provide auxiliary power for the aerial portion of the truck. With the hybrid units, the diesel engine shuts down when the aerial equipment is in operation, totally reducing emissions from idling the vehicle at job sites.

Several CFAT funded projects will expand the use of biodiesel, a cleaner burning renewable fuel produced from oils and fats. The Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains project will help address air quality concerns through

the use of B50 (50% biodiesel, 50% diesel) in the North Carolina portion of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A new 4,000 gallon B50 tank will be purchased and bumper stickers will be developed to publicize the Park's biodiesel use. Metrolina Biofuels will establish a public pump for B85/B100 (85% to 100% biodiesel) in the Charlotte Metro area, while Piedmont Biofuels Cooperative will install a user-friendly Point of Sale (POS) card swipe system at their Carrboro, NC B99 (99% biodiesel) pump and work with Carolina Biodiesel to expand the biodiesel market in Durham. The POS upgrade will allow the Cooperative to increase sales to members by 3-4 times at the popular Carrboro site. Carolina Biodiesel currently has a B99 tank in Durham, NC that they will add a pump with a POS card swipe to substantially increase usage by coop members.

The City of Greensboro will install twenty diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs) on a variety of dump trucks. DOCs are chemical filters that reduce particulate matter and once installed requires little or no maintenance.

Petro Stopping Center will dedicate ten parking spaces at its Mebane, NC facility as a Truck Stop Electrification (TSE) project to reduce emissions from idling diesel engines. Truck drivers are required by federal law to rest for 10 hours during each 24-hour period. Truck stop electrification (TSE) for the ten parking spaces will include a "power pod" and wiring to each of the spaces and will allow trucks equipped with electrical receptors to plug in for power needs.

Grant recipients will contribute a total of \$204,290 in cost share, or 44% of total project costs. Awarded projects are expected to be completed within the next 18 months and a second call for grant proposals will be issued in March 2007. **"Reducing emissions and protecting air quality is our goal," said Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippett. "This program is helping to make a difference through funding innovative projects and technologies."**

***About the Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Project:** A three year, \$2 million dollar initiative of the NC Solar Center (NCSC) that is funded by the State Energy Office and Division of Air Quality as well as by federal CMAQ funds administered by NCDOT to provide educational outreach and emission reductions in 24 NC counties that do not meet national ambient air quality standards. The NCSC has partnered with the Triangle Clean Cities and Centralina Clean Fuels Coalitions to conduct educational outreach in the Triangle and Charlotte Regions.*

***About the NC Solar Center:** a division of the College of Engineering at N.C. State University, operated since 1988 as a clearinghouse for information, demonstration, research, and training related to renewable and advanced technologies.*