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**Driving Clean & Green: A North Carolina Tour
Raleigh kicks off featuring two dozen vehicles and Mobile CARE awards**

Raleigh, N.C. – Raising awareness about alternative fuel and advanced transportation vehicles as a means to reduce harmful emissions and diversify fuel supplies provide the focus for *Driving Clean and Green: A North Carolina Tour*. Attendees have the opportunity to see, speak to representatives and take vehicles for a test drive. These include neighborhood electric vehicles, a bi-fuel (runs on either natural gas or gasoline) Ford Focus, the Roush Ford F150 propane pick up truck, Toyota plug in hybrids, ethanol(E85) flex fuel vehicles and heavy duty hybrid trucks and a hybrid school bus. Over two dozen vehicles and clean burning equipment, such as a propane lawn mower, are participating in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte events April 15th and 16th.

The tour kickoff in Raleigh, at the conclusion of the 6th Annual North Carolina Sustainable Energy Conference, featured remarks from Congressman Bob Etheridge, U.S Ambassador to Denmark (retired) James Cain, Triangle Transit Authority General Manager, David King and North Carolina Cabinet Secretaries; Gene Conti from the Department of Transportation, Dee Freeman from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Britt Cobb from the Department of Administration. These three state agencies provide support to the NC Solar Center at NC State University, the organizer of the Drive Clean and Green event, through the Clean Fuel & Advanced Technology (CFAT) Project. “The Solar Center is grateful to the CFAT sponsors for supporting an initiative that shows how economic development, air quality and energy security are enhanced through the transportation technology arena,” said program manager Anne Tazewell.

The 2009 Mobile CARE (Clean Air Renewable Energy) awards honoring exemplary efforts to reduce transportation related emissions were presented as part of *Driving Clean and Green*. In Raleigh, Dick Dell, Executive Director of the Advanced Vehicle Research Center, was recognized in the Individual category for his commitment and accomplishment in advancing alternative fuels and advanced technologies. Through Dick's effort the AVRC has done more plug in hybrid conversions than any other company in the U.S. Plug in conversions extend the range of hybrid vehicles, thereby reducing petroleum use and emissions, by increasing battery capacity and adding the ability to charge the vehicle through an electrical outlet.

Triangle Biofuels, a one million gallon a year biodiesel production facility in Wilson, NC was recognized with a 2009 Mobile CARE award in the Technology/Fuel Provider category. Biodiesel is a cleaner burning renewable fuel made from a variety of feedstock, including soy and waste vegetable oil, that can be blended in any amount with petroleum diesel. As one of the few biodiesel plants operating in southeastern NC, they have put a lot of effort into reaching out to agricultural and off-road diesel customers to educate them on the health and performance benefits of biodiesel. Triangle Biofuels has also incorporated biodiesel into all of their fleet vehicles, as well as a 100kW generator, boilers, and furnace.

The Fleet Category award went to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for their exemplary efforts at replacing gasoline utility vehicles with zero emission low speed electric vehicles. They have also recently installed an E85 station. E85 is a blend of 85% ethanol, a renewable fuel, and 15% gasoline. Two awards were given in the Organization category, one to the Carolina Clean Air Coalition, a driving force since 2002 to restore clean and healthy air by raising awareness about air pollution and climate change, building partnerships and advocating for policy changes and individual action and another went to the Mecklenburg County Air Quality Agency for Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines, (GRADE), the first local government incentive program to reduce air pollution from off-road construction equipment.

About the Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Project: A three year, \$2 million dollar initiative of the Clean Transportation Program at the NC Solar Center (NCSC) funded by the State Energy Office, Division of Air Quality and federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (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 outreach in the Triangle and Charlotte Regions.

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