



TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative Awarded \$12.9 Million in Grant Funding from US Department of Energy

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC (August 27, 2009) – The [Triangle J Council of Governments](#) (TJCOG) has been awarded \$12.9 million in federal grant funding to support clean vehicles, fuels and infrastructure development.

The Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative will provide support for alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure projects by collaborating with five alternative fuel partners in the Carolinas: [Triangle Clean Cities Coalition](#) (TCCC), [Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition](#) (CFCC), [Land-Of-Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition](#) (LOS-CVC), [North Carolina Solar Center](#), and [Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition](#) (PSCFC). The initiative is also supported by the NC and SC State Energy Offices, the NC Biofuels Center, the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Carolina Blue Skies will include vehicles and fueling infrastructure for electric, hybrid-electric, compressed natural gas, propane, E85, and biodiesel fuels and technologies. Triangle Clean Cities estimates that this Initiative will displace over 750,000 gallons of petroleum annually while creating and preserving over 300 jobs and jumpstarting local economies in both states. Up to forty-two (42) project partners across both states will receive grant funding to purchase advanced technology vehicles and install alternative fueling infrastructure.

"This is a great step in our pursuit to decrease dependence on foreign oil and improve air quality," said Kathy Boyer, coordinator of the Triangle Clean Cities Coalition.

Since its inception in 1993, Clean Cities and its stakeholders have displaced more than two billion gallons of petroleum nationwide. The program utilizes government-industry partnerships on a local level that work to reduce America's petroleum consumption in the transportation sector. The Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative will expedite this

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success while setting the stage for economic development by utilizing partnerships in both states.

"The ability to not only match, but almost double the award DOE has allocated in this grant through stakeholder cost-share, illustrates the strong desire for alternative fuels, infrastructure, and transportation technologies here in the Carolinas," said Sean Flaherty, energy and environment planner at TJCOG.

With the expanded availability of alternative fuel infrastructure, the Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative will be able to sustain itself far beyond the timeline set for this award. The start-up costs for vehicles and infrastructure installation is one of the primary barriers to alternative fuel use. These grant funds have been able to leverage over a 62 percent cost share for vehicles and infrastructure, and will enabled vendors to contract with retailers and fleet managers to install infrastructure to fuel a large number of existing alternative fuel vehicles while putting even more alternatively fueled vehicles on the road.

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About Triangle J Council of Governments: TJCOG is a voluntary organization of county and municipal governments in Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange and Wake counties. For more information visit www.tjcog.dst.nc.us.

About Triangle Clean Cities Coalition: The Triangle Clean Cities Coalition was founded in 1999 to improve air quality and reduce dependence on petroleum by promoting alternative transportation fuels. The Coalition is made up of local and state government agencies, private companies, non-profit organizations, and interested individuals who are dedicated to increasing the use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), hybrids, and idle reduction technology.

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