

FOR RELEASE

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Driving Clean & Green: A North Carolina Tour Greensboro stop features alternative fuel workshop and vehicles

Greensboro, 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*. Presentations by national experts on ethanol, natural gas, propane and the near term and future possibilities for utilizing electricity as transportation fuel are the feature of a morning workshop at the Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center. In addition attendees have the opportunity to see, speak to representatives and take many advanced technology vehicles for a test drive as part of the April 16 event. These include neighborhood electric vehicles, a bi-fuel Ford Focus, (runs on either natural gas or gasoline), the Roush Ford F150 propane pick up truck, Toyota plug in hybrids, and ethanol (E85) flex fuel vehicles. Heavy duty hybrid trucks, a hybrid school bus and clean burning equipment, such as a propane lawn mower, are some of the other two dozen vehicles participating in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte events of April 15th and 16th tour.

A VIP Ride-N-Drive with remarks from Greensboro Mayor Yvonne Johnson, City of Winston Salem Councilman Dan Besse, PART Executive Director Brent McKinney and WXII Chief Meteorologist Lanie Pope brings together an influential group interested in air quality concerns. “I’m pleased to participate in the Driving Clean and Green event and that Greensboro received a Clean Fuel Advanced Technology grant through NCSU’s Solar Center. We used it to install catalysts and reduce diesel emissions on 20 solid waste trucks.” said Mayor Johnson.

The NC Solar Center at NC State University organized the Drive Clean and Green event, through the Clean Fuel & Advanced Technology (CFAT) Project, an initiative funded by the NC Department of Transportation, State Energy Office and Division of Air Quality to provide education and outreach as well as funding for emission reduction projects. “The Solar Center is grateful to CFAT sponsors for supporting an initiative that shows how economic development, air quality and energy security are enhanced through the transportation technology arena

and also pleased to be partnering with Triad Air Awareness and the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments on Driving Clean and Green ” said program manager Anne Tazewell.

The 2009 Mobile CARE (Clean Air Renewable Energy) awards honoring exemplary efforts to reduce transportation related emissions are also 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 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.

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