

August 20, 2004 - Granite State Clean Cities Coalition (GSCCC) Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

The GSCCC stakeholder meeting was held at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) from 9 to 11:30 am. A total of 27 people attended the meeting. The attendee list is attached.

The meeting began with self introductions. A very diverse group was at the meeting as indicated on the attendee list. This was followed by a few words from Kym Hall, a new DES employee who is working part time as the GSCCC Assistant Coordinator and part time for the Pollution Prevention Program. Kym joined the staff in mid-July.

Jim Taylor, Office of Energy and Planning (OEP), then led a discussion regarding the goals and objectives listed in the GSCCC Program Plan. The Plan was created in 2001 for our request to US Department of Energy (DOE) to be designated as a Clean Cities coalition. The Plan listed the following broad goals:

- A. Deploy More AFVs In The Granite State
- B. Deploy More Refueling Stations In The Granite State
- C. Increase Stakeholder Fleet Recruitment
- D. Increase Public And Media Outreach
- E. Secure AFV Legislation And Procurement Incentives
- F. Secure Funds And Grants

Given limited staff at DES and OEP to dedicate to the Clean Cities program, and because it is wise to revisit plans to ensure the coalition is staying on target, the GSCCC's Advisory Board (currently Jim Taylor, Steve Pesci, Tom Kociemba, Scott Zepp, and Dave Dilts) advised reviewing the listed goals to establish priorities for the coalition. A significant amount of discussion was generated regarding each goal and as a result the three goals listed as priority for the coalition for the coming year are:

1. Deploy More Refueling Stations In The Granite State
2. Increase Public And Media Outreach
3. Secure AFV Legislation And Procurement Incentives

Some of the additional discussion that took place in reaching this decision was as follows:

- GSCCC needs to develop a better way to track fuel use and should focus on alternative fuel used rather than the number of AFVs deployed.
- While fueling infrastructure was identified as a priority there was general agreement that as legislation is passed that provides incentives for the use of alternative fuels that both the fueling infrastructure and the vehicles will follow.
- Stakeholder recruitment efforts should include discussion of climate change impacts of alternative fuels. The coalition should also be addressing general pollution reduction efforts such as diesel retrofit programs (It was noted that DES has both climate change and diesel retrofit programs in place).

- A primary goal of increased public outreach should be to the grade school level to influence the next generation of vehicle users. A general discussion of available materials (NESEA has some good curriculum already developed) and on-going efforts (DES frequently gives presentations to school children) followed.
- The goal of securing legislation that will promote the use of alternative fuels is something that all stakeholders must get involved in. During the last legislative session a bill was introduced that would have removed the road toll (\$0.18/gallon) from biodiesel blends of B20 or greater. Stakeholders were informed of the legislation and DES, representing both the agency and GSCCC, assisted in drafting the legislation and providing testimony. The bill passed the Senate but was defeated in the House. If we are to pass legislation then the representatives must be hearing from more than State agency personnel. They must hear from businesses, fleet managers, and individuals in their districts as well.

General discussion on available funding through the recently awarded Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program:

- the funding may only be used for projects located in the ozone non-attainment areas
- funds are for vehicles and infrastructure as well as staff time at DES to manage the program. Funding for outreach and education is not a part of this particular grant.
- monies are scheduled for programming in the 2006/2007 time frame, however if we have a project designed and ready to go prior to that time we would request advanced funding from DOT. Money is often available ahead of schedule due to delays in previously approved projects.
- when the program is ready to start DES will issue a Request for Proposals at which time anyone requesting funding through this source of money would submit a detailed program plan covering requested vehicles and/or fueling infrastructure, source of matching funds, time frames, etc.

Granite State Clean Car program – Kathy Brockett, Education and Outreach Supervisor for DES's Air Resources Division provided an overview of this program. Program partners are DES, NH Dept of Transportation, the NH chapter of the American Lung Association, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the NH Automobile Dealers Association (NHADA). The Clean Car program seeks to educate consumers about cleaner choices in new automobiles by using a sticker program to identify vehicles on dealer lots that have achieved a Low Emission Vehicle or cleaner certification and are rated at 30 mpg highway or higher. DES provides a list of vehicles meeting these specification to the NHADA who distributes the information to participating dealerships. The Clean Car program was recently awarded a \$14,700 grant through the Clean Cities program to expand outreach materials and methodologies and to help improve program training for dealership staff.

AltWheels Festival – Alison Sander gave a presentation about the AltWheels Festival scheduled for September 18 and 19. GSCCC has sponsored this event as a Bronze sponsor for \$1000. The AltWheels Festival has been designed to inform participants about the latest transportation technologies and the vast array of options that exist today. On display will be hybrid, fuel cell, electric, multi-fuel vehicles, and more. GSCCC will

have booth space at the event and GSCCC stakeholders are strongly encouraged to volunteer to spend a few hours on either Saturday or Sunday to man our booth. Please contact Becky Ohler at 603 271-6749 if you have time available to help out. The first Alt Wheels Festival last year had 70 vehicles on display and approximately 1000 attendees. This year's goal is 3000 attendees and 120 display vehicles. The program will include workshops and discussions throughout the day. A full schedule can be found at www.altwheels.org.