DELAWARE CLEAN CITIES CONNECTIONS

Spring 2023

Message from the Delaware Clean Cities Director

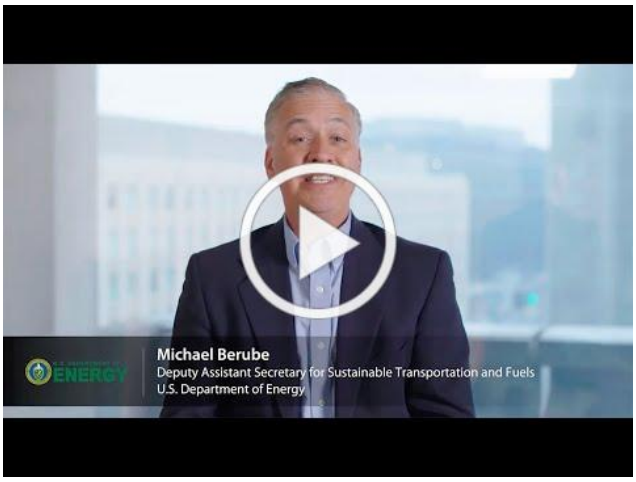
We are pleased to bring back the Delaware Clean Cities Connections newsletter! And what a perfect time too because there are many opportunities and initiatives happening in the clean transportation space. This quarterly newsletter can serve as a resource for you to get updates about all the great work being done here in Delaware and throughout the country.

- Breanne, DE Clean Cities Director

Clean Cities Celebrating 30 Years Advancing Clean Transportation

Happy 30th birthday to the Clean Cities Coalition Network! Join us in celebrating 30 years of boosting the country's energy security, economic vitality, and quality of life by advancing affordable, efficient, and clean transportation fuels and technologies. Over 30 years, the network has built bipartisan support, deep connections within the transportation industry, and active partnerships with 20,000 public and private stakeholders. Thriving on a culture of collaborative change, coalitions harness decades of deployment expertise to continue moving our transportation systems into the future.

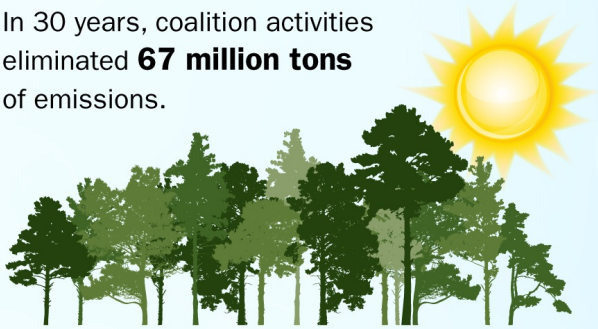
Tune into the Clean Cities anniversary announcement video featuring Micael Berube, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Sustainable Transportation and Fuels at the U.S. Department of Energy. In the announcement, Berube acknowledges the accomplishments and expertise of Clean Cities and how the program will continue to play a crucial role in guiding the public through the ever-changing landscape of sustainable transportation.



Fun Facts!

Coalitions tailor projects to unique needs through partnerships with **20,000 stakeholders**.

In 30 years, coalition activities eliminated **67 million tons** of emissions.



Delaware Clean Vehicle Rebate Extended

Delaware Clean Transportation Incentive Program announced that it will be extending the clean vehicle and charging station rebate program through April 30th, 2024.

Rebates are available for the purchase or lease of new battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles with a base MSRP of $50,000 or less.

Vehicle rebate amounts:
Battery Electric: $2,500
Plug-in Hybrid: $1,000

Charging station rebates are also available for commercial properties, multi-family dwellings, workplaces and fleets. Delaware entities can get up to 80% of the cost of the charging station covered under the program. Additionally, as of May 1st, 2023, existing multi-family dwellings are eligible to receive additional coverage for the installation costs associated with electric vehicle chargers.

For full program details, visit de.gov/cleantransportation

Transportation TidBit

As of May 1st, 2023, the following alternative fuel vehicles are registered in Delaware:

- 21,667 hybrid and plug-in hybrid
- 6,226 battery-electric

Federal Funding Opportunity

The US Department of Transportation has recently announced the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program, which provides funding for the construction of infrastructure for electric, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas vehicles. The grant program has two tracks: Corridor Charging, which increases access to alternative fueling along designated alternative fuel corridors, and Community Charging, which prioritizes expanding access to rural areas and public roads.

Information on eligibility, funding, and support can be found **here**. Applications for the first funding round close June 13th, 2023.

New US Consumer Battery Recycling Program

The increasing popularity of electric vehicles (EVs) has brought a new challenge to the industry: battery waste management. To tackle this issue, Volkswagen has joined forces with Redwood Materials, a recycling and manufacturing company that aims to create a circular supply chain in the EV industry. The two companies are collaborating on a new consumer battery recycling program that will help reduce the carbon footprint of the EV industry by refurbishing and recycling batteries. With Volkswagen's goal of producing 26 million EVs by 2030, this program is a significant step towards achieving that target in an environmentally sustainable way.

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- 289 propane
- 202 liquified gas
- 198 compressed natural gas

Data provided by the Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles.

Alternative Fuel Highlights

As more fleets are turning to renewable diesel and biodiesel, it is important to know what the differences and advantages are in using one over the other, and in comparison to traditional diesel fuel. A recent article from Fuels Fix highlights the similarities and differences between these popular fuels in clarifying their production processes, environmental benefits, and compatibility with existing diesel engines.

According to the article, both renewable diesel and biodiesel are made from renewable sources, but the production processes set them apart. Renewable diesel is made through a process called hydrotreating, which removes oxygen and other impurities from vegetable oils and animal fats. Biodiesel, on the other hand, is made through a process called transesterification, which involves reacting vegetable oils or animal fats with an alcohol to produce fatty acid esters.

While both fuels have similar environmental benefits compared to traditional diesel fuel, there are some differences in their performance and compatibility with existing diesel engines, as well as variability in cost and availability.

Whether you are a fleet manager or a consumer, continue reading to explore these key differences in detail and be better equipped to make an informed decision about which fuel is right for you.

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Helpful Resources and Events

Efficiency and Weight - Not Just Electric vs. Gas - Shape Environmental Impact

h-greenmean image

With so much information out there about the environmental impact of both gas-powered cars and electric vehicles (EVs), it can be overwhelming for consumers to know which option is best for both the planet and their personal priorities.

Fortunately, the recent GreenerCars 2023 report from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) simplifies the decision-making process for consumers with a comprehensive analysis of the greenest cars on the market. ACEEE weighed factors such as efficiency, emissions, weight, and manufacturing processes to provide a more holistic view of a vehicle's environmental impact.

The report ranks the least environmentally damaging electric, hybrid, and gasoline-powered models and shows which models are best suited for different types of drivers.

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Propane Powered Electricity Generators - a Dynamic Duo

After decades of fueling fleets directly, propane can now also provide a recharging solution for electric vehicles. Propane

SUSTAINABLE FLEET TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE & EXPO 2023

August 14-16, 2023 | Raleigh Convention Center

Save the date! The 7th annual Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference and Expo is coming up in Raleigh, North Carolina! Discover the latest and greatest in sustainable fleet technology, operations, and implementation over the course of this two-day event. The conference features keynote presentations, 50+ panelists, 16 breakouts sessions, an expo hall, and the opportunity to network with over 300 attendees. Register **here**.

Fuels Fix
Fuels Fix features stories about alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies successes in the United States. The site is powered by news from the US DOE Clean Cities Program as well as our working partners in the alternative fuels industry.

CleanTech Talk
CleanTech Talk releases weekly interviews with leaders, top researchers, and investment experts in the fields of transportation, energy, climate change, and more.

EV Hub Live Podcast
EV Hub Live is a first-of-its-kind video podcast recorded live and distributed for free to the public policy community working to advance transportation electrification.

Fueling Solutions has recently unveiled their portable dual-purpose fueling station that allows fleets to refuel with propane autogas or recharge with DC Level 3 fast chargers. These stations are also equipped with wind and solar power, offering self-contained and grid independent solutions for vehicle charging, especially in remote locations or areas with limited infrastructure.

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Coalition Spotlight - Utah Clean Cities Coalition

Utah is Driving Big Change through Small Actions

IdleFree-Logo image

For more than fifteen years, Utah Clean Cities Coalition (UCCC) has been running a first of its kind campaign, "Idle Free". The campaign brings awareness to how wasteful and polluting the act of idling a car can be and encourages drivers to turn off their engine. In fact, researchers estimate that idling from heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles wastes about 6 billion gallons of fuel annually.

Since its inception, over 75 mayors and 425 schools have signed onto the Idle Free effort. Through the creation of idle free zones and increased public awareness and education, one small action has led to big results. Based on UCCC's annual report data from 2013 to 2020, the program reduced more than 12,298 tons of greenhouse gas emissions over those seven years. Learn more about the Idle Free effort and how it has been successfully implemented **here.**