



Green Fleet News

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Renee Cipriano, Director

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Upcoming Conference:

Trucks & Buses in the 21st Century Environment:

Cleaner Fuels, Cleaner Engines, New Technologies and New Programs

April 14-15, 2003

**Marriott Hickory Ridge
Lisle, Illinois**

This conference will be the first of its kind in the Chicago area covering new federal programs, state initiatives, and voluntary programs affecting medium- and heavy-duty trucks, school buses, and mass transit buses.

Read more on page 3.

To register or for more information, go to the official conference website at: www.chicagocleancities.org

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Illinois Green Fuels and Illinois Green Dealers to join Green Fleets

The Illinois EPA is launching two new programs to complement its Illinois Green Fleets Program. The **Illinois Green Fuels** and the **Illinois Green Dealers** programs will recognize Illinois fuel stations and dealerships that enable fleets to become a "Green Fleet."

The **Illinois Green Fuels** program recognizes retail or commercial fuel stations that sell E-85, natural gas, propane, and biodiesel to the general public or to other



fleets. There are several fuel stations in Illinois that sell these green fuels to various fleets and to the general public.

Without the owners of these stations taking the lead in installing and maintaining the infrastructure to make the clean fuels available, there would not be as many Green Fleets in the State.



One of the first Illinois Green Fuels stations will include the Clark in Evanston for selling E-85.

In addition, the **Illinois Green Dealers** program highlights and recognizes the vehicle dealerships in Illinois that provide training for their sales staff and maintenance technicians on how to sell and service natural gas, propane, E-85, and electric vehicles. Only specialized dealerships that are certified by their respective manufacturers to sell the vehicles and to perform maintenance to satisfy all of their customers' needs for "green vehicles" receive this designation. An elite group of Illinois dealerships qualify for the "Illinois Green Dealers" program and, along with the Illinois Green Fuels stations, will be designated in 2003.



The **Illinois Green Fuels** and the **Illinois Green Dealers** programs will be part of the Illinois Green Fleets Program. The fuel stations and dealerships help to complete the "triangle" that is needed to support fleets in their vehicle purchases and fuel use. Two adaptations of the existing Illinois Green Fleets logo will be used for the two programs to identify the stations that sell green fuels and the dealers that sell and service green vehicles for its fleet customers and to the general public. In the future, look for information on the designated green fuel stations and dealerships on the Illinois Green Fleets website at

www.illinoisgreenfleets.org.

Melinda Latimer is named Chicago Area Clean Cities' 2002 Clean Fuels Champion

Melinda Latimer of the U.S Department of Energy's Chicago office was presented the 2002 Clean Fuels Champion award by the Chicago Area Clean Cities (CACC) coalition at its annual end-of-the-year stakeholder meeting and holiday reception held at the Brookfield Zoo on December 3, 2002.

Ms. Latimer joins previous award winners Motorola (2000) and State Rep. Philip Novak of Kankakee (2001) as those that have made a significant contribution towards the implementation of clean, American fuels in Illinois and especially in the Chicago area.

Melinda served as the Department of Energy's Midwest Clean Cities Program representative for ten years since the program's inception in 1992. Recently, she moved on to begin working with the Department's

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency programs. During her ten years with Clean Cities, she coordinated and worked with local officials from Minnesota to Ohio in helping to establish 13 local Clean Cities coalitions throughout the Midwest. One of her most successful

campaigns was organizing the black-tie recognition banquet *Driving Clean into a New Millennium* for the Chicago, Southeast Wisconsin, and Northwest Indiana coalitions in July 1999.

"Melinda has meant a great deal to the Clean Cities coalitions in the Midwest, including our group in Chicago. She helped to lay the foundation for clean fuels and vehicles in the Chicago area and made us a more successful coalition," stated Darwin Burkhart, CACC chairman. "We are proud to recognize her as our 2002 Clean Fuels Champion for all of the work that she has done."



Pictured with Melinda Latimer (second from left) are CACC Executive Board members Darwin Burkhart, Carol Brown, Bethany Wezeman and Doug Dittrich.

Chicago Area Teacher Gets a Charge from his Students

Tim Moore of Hillside, an industrial technology teacher at Lincoln Middle School in the Park Ridge/Niles School District, really knows how to jolt his students into learning about electronics in the school's Electricity/Electronics Club. In fact, it was the club's six students who actually jump-started their teacher into building an electric car from scratch.

Two years ago, Mr. Moore joined the Fox Valley Electric Auto Association (FVEAA) and its members helped guide and educate him on how to convert a vehicle to



electricity. For \$2,500, Mr. Moore purchased a maroon 1994 Ford Escort station wagon. After three months of labor and help from the FVEAA, Mr. Moore now has his electric vehicle. With current and past students from his school club watching the grand unveiling, he drove it around the school's parking lot to the delight of the kids. Mr. Moore not

only inspired his students, but he also inspired the school district's administration. The school installed a 110-volt exterior outlet for him to recharge his car in the parking lot during the day. Mr. Moore commutes 26 miles round-trip from Hillside to Park Ridge each day.

\$356,362 in Rebates Issued in 2002 to 25 Applicants

The Illinois EPA issued over \$350,000 in rebates to 25 applicants in 2002 for the purchase or conversion of AFVs and for the purchase of E-85 fuel. The rebates helped to implement 73 natural gas, 17 propane, 9 E-85, and 7 electric vehicles during the year. This brings the total numbers since the program's inception in 1999 to \$1,622,868 issued to 93 applicants for the implementation of 942 green fleet vehicles operating with natural gas, ethanol (E-85), propane and electricity. The average rebate per vehicle has been \$1,723.

Notable rebate recipients include Rock Island MetroLINK

which received \$48,000 for the purchase of 12 new natural gas transit buses for the Quad Cities area, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in Northbrook which purchased three more natural gas vans for its employee vanpool program, and Sci-Tech Museum in Aurora as well as the University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University, and the College of Lake County which acquired additional natural gas vehicles. Other recipients include the Village of Northbrook for 9 E-85 vehicles and the DuPage Forest Preserve for 5 propane vehicles. Several businesses and individuals also acquired propane-powered vehicles. Congratulations to all!

Spring Conference on Trucks and Buses to Educate Fleets on New Programs and Initiatives

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Chicago Area Clean Cities coalition, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Lung Association, Illinois Soybean Association, John Deere, Caterpillar, and GM are some of the sponsors for a two-day conference to be held at the Marriott Hickory Ridge Conference Center in Lisle, Illinois on April 14 and 15, 2003. **“Trucks & Buses in the 21st Century Environment: Cleaner Fuels, Cleaner Engines, New Technologies and New Programs”** will be the first conference of its kind in the Chicago area, focusing on environmental programs and initiatives involving the implementation of cleaner fuels, the new generation of clean diesel and other types of engines, and the various regulatory and voluntary programs designed to reduce emissions from medium- and heavy-duty trucks and buses.

The conference will provide information on the new EPA diesel engine standards, the upcoming changes in the diesel fuel standards, highlight the technological advancements with the new generation of diesel

engines, and the retrofitting of older diesel trucks and buses with new technologies to reduce emissions. In addition, real-world information on business, government, and school district fleets that have conducted after-market retrofits or changed fuel to operate the vehicles on natural gas, propane, and biodiesel will be presented. Attendees will learn how these progressive changes have affected and benefited their vehicles and overall fleet operation, especially with regards to maintenance, performance, and costs while providing for cleaner air in their communities. Most importantly, business and government fleet managers need to be knowledgeable about the upcoming regulatory changes and the various voluntary options and funding programs available to fleets with trucks and buses. Those operating delivery fleets, public works vehicles, and school and transit buses will especially benefit from this conference.

To register or for more information, go to the conference website at www.chicagocleancities.org or contact Mary Cruse of the Illinois EPA at (217) 557-1441 .

Chicago Area Fleets Receive \$2 Million in CMAQ Awards

The awardees for the second round of Congestion and Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for the installation of domestic fuel infrastructure were announced in December. Another \$2 million was granted in addition to the \$2 million allocated two years ago for several natural gas stations in the Chicago area. The awardees of the second round of CMAQ funding are:

City of Aurora: 1 E-85 station

City of Chicago, CTA, and University of Illinois at Chicago: 2 natural gas and 3 E-85 stations

Village of Downers Grove: 1 E-85 station

Village of Northbrook: 1 natural gas station
Village of Park Ridge: 1 natural gas station
Village of Winnetka: 1 E-85 station

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County:
2 natural gas and 1 propane station

McHenry County Conservation District:
1 propane and 1 E-85 station

These 15 new stations will be used by the local governments receiving the awards as well as numerous school districts, park districts, colleges, and other municipalities in the Chicago area. Watch the website for more “green fleet” announcements in the coming months.

Alternate Fuels Rebate Program Continues into 2003: Future Funding Uncertain in Midst of State’s Budget Crisis

As a follow-up to the story in the last newsletter, House Bill 2 passed unanimously in the Illinois House and Senate during the 2002 Fall Veto Session and was signed by former Governor George Ryan. The Illinois Alternate Fuels Rebate Program will continue into 2003 with some minor changes. First, the funding for the program has been switched to come from the State’s general revenue fund or from other sources such as grants, foundations, and corporate donations. In addition, the program was amended such that it will

continue indefinitely for as long as there is funding.

While the Illinois EPA currently has funds to accommodate rebate applications in the foreseeable future, the anticipated increased number of rebate requests with no additional funding being deposited into the Alternate Fuels Fund will likely lead to uncertainties down the road. Therefore, it is highly recommended that prospective rebate applicants call us at (217) 557-1441 for the program’s “current status.”

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mobile Source Programs #6
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Contact: Darwin Burkhardt
Phone: 217-557-1441
Fax: 217-524-4710
Email: darwin.burkhardt@epa.state.il.us



“Green Environment, Green Energy, and Green Economics for a Green Illinois”

www.illinoisgreenfleets.org

Green Fleet Feature: Illinois Power of Decatur Doesn't Have to Look Far for Its Fuel Supplies

Most of us really don't know where our fuel comes from or understand the economics of supply and demand, transport and distribution, and other market conditions that dictate the frequent rise and fall of fuel prices. Many of us read or watch the news on world and domestic events and understand some basic correlations of their impacts on energy prices, yet we wonder....How much of our petroleum really comes from the Middle East, Venezuela, Alaska, or other parts of the world? How will the tensions in Iraq and Korea, the strike in Venezuela, the temporary shutdown of the Alaskan pipeline, or a harsh winter affect fuel prices and market stability? Will some of these affects be short-term or long-term? No one really knows what the future will bring and to what extent world or domestic events can affect our fuel supplies, which in turn dictates the health of our economy.

Several businesses and governments have already taken significant steps to help minimize adverse affects on fuel supplies and prices. Illinois Power of Decatur, a natural gas and electric utility that serves the central Illinois region, implemented 85 percent ethanol (E-85) in its

vehicle fleet. Unlike the questions that often arise from using conventional fuels, the corn used to make E-85 is grown by farmers in Illinois, is processed and manufactured into ethanol in Decatur or Peoria, and then E-85 is distributed to several retailers throughout the State. Nowhere in this process does it leave the State of Illinois.

Illinois Power currently has 123 E-85 vehicles in its Decatur fleet and also has its own E-85 fuel station. The company plans to phase in more E-85 vehicles as it turns over its fleet. According to Bill Outten, fleet manager for Illinois Power, "My plans are to purchase all E-85 whenever possible. It is a renewable fuel source and produced by our farmers in Illinois."

The company installed its E-85 station last Spring and also started to acquire the vehicles at that time. In 2002, Mr. Outten reports that over 14,000 gallons of E-85 were consumed by his fleet, with many more gallons projected to be used in 2003, the first full year of operation. In addition, Mr. Outten serves on the board for St. Louis Clean Cities and promotes the benefits of E-85 to other companies.