The Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition celebrated the 15th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Clean Cities public/private partnership on Oct. 3, while participating in the National Alternative Fueled Vehicle (AFV) Day Odyssey, the largest national one-day event promoting the use of alternative fuels and energy-efficient vehicles.

The Tucson Coalition’s event showcased a range of alternative fuels and vehicles available on the market. Four different events were held throughout the day.

“The Clean Cities partnership and the National AFV Day Odyssey are an ideal match, as both promote sustainable transportation that supports our national economy, security and environment,” said Tucson Regional Clean Cities Manager Colleen Crowninshield.

Since its inception in 1993, the Clean Cities’ partnership has supported local decisions to reduce petroleum consumption in transportation. Since the Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition was established in 1999, Coalition members have displaced over 12.1 million gallons of petroleum by using alternative fuels.

To further increase Clean Cities’ national impact, the partnership has teamed with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium to host the National AFV Day Odyssey where 90 locations nationwide host activities. The last event in 2006 presented information on alternative vehicles and fuels to nearly 40,000 people in three countries.

On Oct. 3, the Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition participated in four events to promote alternative fuel and vehicle use. The day started with a booth at 92.9 The Mountain's Green October event at La Encantada in the early morning followed by a celebration presentation by Colleen Crowninshield at PAG's Environmental Planning Advisory Council meeting. To aid in educating our youth, the Coalition led a classroom discussion for Ms. Tina Hansleben's 6th grade class at Amphitheater Middle School on the different types of fuels and where they come from. The day concluded with a 15-vehicle display at Foothills Mall to educate the public on alt fuels. Many of the Clean Cities Coalition members participated including Arizona Biodiesel Board, Clean Energy, CNG Services of Arizona, Coyote Golf Cars, Grecycle, Mrs. Green Goes Mainstream, Sun Tran, Tucson Electric Bikes and the Tucson Electric Vehicle Association.

“"We can’t drill our way out of the problem. That’s why I’ve focused on putting resources into solar, wind, biodiesel, geothermal… We invented the auto industry and the fact that we have fallen so far behind is something that we have to work on."

- President-elect Barack Obama, Third presidential debate, Oct. 15, 2008
Grease Recycle Day collects 1,710 pounds of oil

On a day when most people head to the mall, volunteers and staff from the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), Grecycle and Pima Association of Governments’ Clean Cities program were collecting used grease at the 4th Annual Day-after-Thanksgiving Grease Recycling event on Friday, Nov. 28.

The five locations around Tucson and one in Sahuarita gathered 1,710 pounds of oil that will be made into biodiesel and kept out of local sewers and landfills.

The event brought awareness on the hazards of pouring grease into our sewer system while educating the public that biodiesel can be made from recycled grease. Pima County’s Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department Community Relations Manager Laura Fairbanks said that sanitary sewer overflows in the County have significantly declined since 2003, from 10 overflows in January 2003 to just one overflow in January 2008.

“Although we can’t directly link the reduction to the efforts of our grease recycling day, I believe there is a link. We are educating the public to other options for their grease than pouring it down our drains,” she said.

AFV National Conference and Expo set for April

The Alternative Fuels & Vehicles National Conference + Expo 2009 (AF&V 2009) will be held in Orlando, Fla., on April 19-22. This fuel and technology neutral conference brings industry experts, transportation leaders and policymakers together to help fleets sort through which fuels and vehicles make the most sense for them.

AF&V 2009 showcases non-petroleum options including natural gas, ethanol, biodiesel, propane, electricity and hydrogen, and their companion vehicles. The conference embraces advanced technologies that result in fuel efficiency, petroleum displacement and emissions improvements. Included in the areas of interest are hybrid-electric and plug-in hybrid technologies; blends, including hydrogen; fuel cells; and, idle-reduction devices. Each non-petroleum option is featured as part of the program in the Expo hall and at the Ride-n-Drive event.

For more information, please see http://afv2009.com/

Caterpillar approves use of biodiesel blend in engines

Caterpillar Inc. approved the use of B20 biodiesel (diesel blended with 20 percent biodiesel) for use in its compact and mid-range engines such as C0.5 through C2.2 Tier 4 Interim (11-66 hp), the C4.4, C4.4 ACERT™ and C6.6 ACERT™ (72-275 hp) Tier 3/Stage IIIA compliant engines.

The acceptance of B20 for these engines follows Caterpillar’s positive results from testing of higher percentage blended fuels in a number of installations. Biodiesel used in B20 blends must meet the most current version of ASTM D6751 or EN14214. The final B20 blend should meet the minimum requirements of the upcoming ASTM specification for B5-B20 blends.

“This announcement further confirms Cat’s commitment to its industrial customers by bringing the broadest range of biodiesel compatible engines to market,” said Caterpillar Industrial Engine Marketing Manager Mike Reinhart. “Biodiesel that meets industry quality standards can be good for the environment and for our customers.”

Source: http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=75207

Renewable fuel standard to increase

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that the renewable fuel standard (RFS) will increase from 7.76 percent in 2008 to 10.21 percent for 2009.

In order to reach the overall goal of attaining 36 billion gallons in 2022, at least 11.1 billion gallons of renewable fuels must be blended into transportation gasoline in the coming year.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) established the annual overall renewable fuel volume targets. Refiners, importers and non-oxygenate blenders of gasoline must determine the minimum volume of renewable fuel that it must use based on the standard for the year. In 2008, the RFS was 9 billion gallons.

For more information, please see http://www.epa.gov/otaq/renewablefuels/index.htm
Sun Tran adds to Alt Fuel Fleet

This fall, Sun Tran added to its fleet of vehicles by purchasing several alternatively fueled corporate cars. Four new hybrids – three Prius and one Ford Escape – and seven flex-fuel Chevy Impalas were delivered to Sun Tran in early November.

Fueling our Future

PAG’s Tucson Regional Clean Cities Manager Colleen Crowninshield participated in a panel discussion on sustainable transportation alternatives at a one-day seminar called, “Fueling our Future: A Blueprint for Energy Independence,” on Dec. 11 at the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix. The event was hosted by the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. The panel consisted of experts in the field of alternative energy: Maria Baier, City Council Member-City of Phoenix, Jim Harger, manager of sales-Clean Energy, and Colleen Crowninshield, manager of the Clean Cities Program at Pima Association of Governments. Approximately 150 attended this one-day seminar which highlighted T. Boone Pickens’ energy security ideas for America called the “Pickens Plan.” Col. Dave Belote, U.S. Military, also presented on energy security.

New Coalition Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest coalition members. Thanks for taking the initiative to reduce Arizona’s dependence on imported petroleum.

Saguaro Level:
- Bookmans
- Chapman Automotive
- The City of Sierra Vista
- Triad Lubrication

Cholla Level:
- Desert Kia of Tucson
- Renewable Energy Resources
- Tucson Electric Vehicle Assoc.

Upcoming Coalition Meetings

Please mark your calendars for the Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition meetings for 2009:

- March 18
- May 20
- July 22
- September 23
- November 18

All meetings are from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in PAG’s main conference room:

177 N. Church Ave, Suite 501, Tucson, Arizona 85701

Reminder: All past coalition meeting agendas, minutes and presentations can be found on the PAG Web site www.PAGnet.org under “Clean Fuels/Clean Cities.”

New Fuel Stations Open

Puchi’s Quick Stop
483 Grand Ave.
Nogales, AZ

Chevron
9080 W. Olive Ave.
Peoria, AZ

Discovery Fuels
295 S. Arizona Blvd.
Coolidge, AZ
Chris Paine to speak at Sustainability and Energy EXPO 2009!

Chris Paine, writer and director of the acclaimed film, “Who Killed the Electric Car,” will be a keynote speaker at PAG’s Sustainability and Energy Expo on March 6-7 at the Tucson Convention Center.

Paine’s film on the demise of General Motors’ EV-1, all-electric vehicle was released in 2006 and was featured at the Sundance, Tribeca and San Francisco film festivals. It has become a must-see film for anyone interested in future trends in transportation. The Director is currently working on a movie sequel to be called “Revenge of the Electric Car.” He is a supporter of the not-for-profit organization, Plug-In America.

PAG is still accepting applications for exhibitors and sponsors for the Expo. Booth space is limited with more than half of the booth space already reserved. The first Alternative Energy EXPO, held in September 2007, drew more than 4,000 participants, 60 booths and 15 alternatively fueled vehicles. Information about the event may be viewed at www.TucsonAltEnergyExpo.com.

SunEdison solar tour comes to Tucson

The Tucson Regional Clean Cities program supported the SunEdison tour for its tailgate display on Oct. 18 at the University of Arizona. Many students and interested alumni stopped by the informative display to learn more about solar electricity.

SunEdison, North America’s largest solar energy services provider, is the lead sponsor of the tour with four leading solar industry companies: Evergreen Solar Inc., a manufacturer of solar power panels; United Solar Ovonic LLC, a manufacturer of thin-film solar laminates; SMA America Inc., a manufacturer of solar inverters; and Xantrex Technology Inc., a manufacturer of advanced power electronic products, including solar inverters.

The tour exhibited in Tucson at multiple locations from Oct. 18-22. All visitors who took the Solar Intelligence Test and pledged to advocate for solar received a SunEdison T-shirt.

“Students care deeply about the environment and many feel the effect of the rising cost of fuel at home. They want to know more about energy and, in particular, about solar energy,” said Dr. Laura Martin, Senior Director of Science Interpretation and Content for the Arizona Science Center. “A program like this, from the real-world, brings solar energy to life for students and also really allows them to develop an understanding of how energy profoundly affects their lives. This is technology being developed today for use now and in decades to come.”

Solar energy provides new “green” jobs, addressing climate change issues and ensuring a secure, local independent power supply. Seven jobs are created for every megawatt (MW) of solar energy installed.

Spanning 100 days, the national tour brought interactive educational exhibits to 50 cities in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Minnesota and Colorado. Powered by solar energy, the exhibits were transported by colorful biodiesel-fueled trucks. The exhibit toured both the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention; response was enthusiastic at all locations visited. http://www.CityTourforSolar.com