

Maine Clean Communities = MC²



***A Clean Cities Program Promoting Clean Fuel Vehicles, Energy Independence and Clean Air
Administered by the Greater Portland Council of Governments***

Maine Clean Communities Stakeholders/Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Greater Portland Council of Governments
68 Marginal Way, Portland

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. Announcements
- IV. Legislative Update
- V. Funding Opportunities
- VI. Project Updates – Local and Statewide
- VII. The latest from U.S. DOE
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Set Next Meeting Date – December 2, 2009
- X. Adjourn

Maine Clean Communities (MC²)
Stakeholders/Steering Committee Breakfast Meeting Minutes
Wednesday – August 5th, 2009
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
GPCOG Conference Room, 68 Marginal Way, Portland, Maine

Attendees: Lynne Cayting (Maine DEP); Brian Hallowell (Cummins Northeast); Frank Heller (Katahdin Energy Works); Steve Linnell (GPCOG); Sue McIntyre (GPCOG); Andy Meyer (Safe Handling).

Guest Speaker: Dan Abbott, Roush Propane F150 owner.

1. Call to Order:

Steve Linnell called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions:

Steve welcomed those present and introductions were made.

3. Announcements:

- The 2009 Clean Cities Eastern States Coordinator Peer Exchange Conference took place in Pittsburgh last June.
- Maine has collaborated with Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, on a grant proposal for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding that was included with the annual Clean Cities solicitation. Categories include incremental costs for alternative fuel vehicles, fueling infrastructure, education workshops. There were 135 proposals submitted, with only about 30 anticipated to be funded. Announcements on the proposals submitted should be made by the end of August. Maine's portion of this solicitation was for propane school buses and fueling for SAD 6, a propane vehicle for Scarborough, some hybrid school buses for Portland and a hybrid bucket truck for Lucas Tree.
- Lynne Cayting announced that Maine had received three transportation related grants from the ARRA Funding Program. Among those benefiting from these funds include the following: The Maine Turnpike received \$1.3 million for truck-stop electrification for 30 parking spaces at the West Gardiner Plaza to plug-in for shore power. Monies were also received to re-power the *Margaret Chase Smith* of the Maine State Ferry Service out of Rockland. And a portion will be used to re-power a private commercial tugboat. Also included are a couple of tugboats out of Westport Island that will re-power their two-stroke auxiliary engines. Another grant includes funding for the retrofit and the re-powering of construction equipment used by Pike Industries and Lane Construction as well as engine upgrades for their material handling equipment. The grant also includes retrofitting nine MaineDOT on highway trucks with Diesel Oxidation Catalysts. All work has to be completed by 2010. Lynne added that the Clean Marine Engine Program was not funded at this time but the EPA will have another solicitation this fall and Lynne will apply again for funding. However 45 boats will be funded with state stimulus funds.
- Steve noted that there is a bill in Congress to "authorize" the Clean Cities Programs. Clean Cities has never been "authorized" even though it has been around for 15 years. This might mean that Clean Cities would receive more consistent funding. The language sets the funding for Clean over a five-year authorization at \$125 million which equals \$25 million a year.
- Oakhurst Dairy will be getting a hybrid diesel electric truck. If the truck is used only in the city it will definitely show an improvement in fuel efficiency.
- The Natural Gas Act has been introduced in the Senate. It extends the alternative fuels credit for natural gas ten more years. This includes credits for infrastructure, manufacturing facilities, etc. More information can be found at www.NGVAmerica.org
- The Long Island Bus in New York is rolling out 100 new natural gas buses.
- METRO has purchased several used diesel buses to replace the 1990 vintage diesels.
- The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute has published a 2009/2010 Buyer's Guide. More information can be found at www.AFVI.org

- Andy Meyer announced that a new biofuel terminal would be starting up this week in Ellsworth. A new large tank holding about 3,000 to 5,000 gallons of biofuels has been installed at Coastal Energy.

4. Short presentation from a Roush Propane F150 owner – Presented by Dan Abbott.

Dan Abbott introduced himself and distributed a summary sheet on his Roush Propane F150 truck.

In 1973 Dan had converted a 1964 Ford Falcon to run on gasoline or propane. He put 126,000 miles on the vehicle. Every time he changed the oil on his vehicle, it was clean. He had long wanted to continue this “experiment” with alternative fuel vehicles and finally found the right fit with the dedicated propane Roush F150 which he purchased from a dealer in Texas for \$24,000. The local Ford dealership warranties everything on the Ford 150 truck and Roush warranties the fuel system. He had originally looked into the possibility of buying a natural gas vehicle but then found out that CNG would no longer be available at the METRO fueling station.

He is refueling the vehicle at U-Haul. There are 2,500 propane fueling stations around the U.S. though not very many public ones in Maine, yet. Dan currently pays about \$2.60 a gallon for fuel and feels that his operating costs will decrease. One big disadvantage at the moment is that refueling requires more planning. Tax incentives include a \$2500 tax rebate and the propane seller gets reimbursed \$.50/gallon pumped. That is one reason why fleets could save money on this type of vehicle because they could pump their own fuel and save money. There is no power loss on his truck, a common complaint about other propane vehicles. Instead, he gets a 3% power boost due to the fact that the fuel is delivered to the cylinders in liquid form.

His truck also has a 98,000 pound towing capacity. 90% of the fuel is produced in the U.S. Dan feels this is a large untapped resource for years to come. A conversion kit can be bought for about \$7,800 but it is a daunting process to convert a vehicle/truck yourself. The fueling process takes about five to ten minutes. The tank has an automatic shut-off and fuel lines are all made of stainless steel. There are many environmental benefits. Propane does not contribute to greenhouse gas because it dissipates quickly. A brief handout of the presentation will be available soon on the Maine Clean Communities website. A short discussion followed.

Andy Meyer noted that the owner of Safe Handling had recently purchased a wood-powered pick-up truck that is fueled by wood pellets. More info is available on the Safe Handling website: www.safehandling.com

Steve thanked Dan for coming in. Everyone was invited to step outside to look at Dan’s truck.

5. Tabled until next meeting.

6. Tabled until next meeting.

7. Tabled until next meeting.

8. Set next meeting date

The next Maine Clean Communities Meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.