

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
Biofuels Summit (in place of regularly scheduled breakfast meeting)**

Wednesday, December 8, 2009

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Greater Portland Council of Governments
68 Marginal Way, Portland**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Dean Sgouros from Maine Standard Biofuels will discuss closed-loop biodiesel production in Portland
- III. Steve Fitzpatrick from Biofine Technology LLC will discuss production of levulinic acid
- IV. Dick Arnold from Old Town Fuel and Fiber will discuss biobutanol production at the Old Town mill in Orono
- V. Will Brinton from Woods End Laboratories will discuss biomethane production from compost
- VI. Representative Steve Butterfield (Bangor) will give a brief legislative update
- VII. Open discussion on the status of the biofuels industry in Maine – barriers and solutions
- VIII. Adjourn

Maine Clean Communities (MC²)
Stakeholders/Steering Committee Breakfast Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2009
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
GPCOG Conference Room, 68 Marginal Way, Portland, Maine

1. **Call to Order:**

Steve Linnell called the meeting to order at 8:35

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Steve welcomed those present and introductions were made

3. **Announcements:**

Steve announced the Biodiesel Ribbon cutting – the Governor is expected to be there. Maine Bio-Fuel needs to get more waste grease because they have a high production capacity - getting the waste grease is more of an issue than finding a market. If there is not a local market, they can send it to Massachusetts, because Massachusetts has a 2% mandate favoring biodiesel from waste vegetable oil.

ARRA funding: Steve and Jay Nason (Scarborough Public Works) discussed the results of the Clean Cities DOE ARRA grant application. The New England states all applied together, but did not receive funds. New York State was the closest state in the region to receive funding. DOE gave the lead applicant, Vermont Clean Cities a critique of the proposal, but there was nothing major wrong with it. What hurt us was the number of vehicles – New England did not have as many vehicles as others did.

4. **Legislative updates:**

State policy: Steve described the changes in the clean fuel tax equalization. The State legislature perceived that they were losing \$7 mm from the state highway fund due to the ethanol tax. Steve explained to them that they were not losing money. Though E10 was taxed at a penny less than gasoline, because of the difference in BTUs (energy content) one has to buy more fuel to drive the same distance on E10. They were losing money because of many other factors, but they blamed it on ethanol. They changed the legislation, so that now any fuel that is mixed with diesel or gasoline up to 90% is taxed at the same rate.

If Maine starts making ethanol at commercial quantities, it will be penalized here. Because of the difference in energy content, E85 would be taxed at the equivalent of 8 cents more than gasoline under the new law. The only bright spot is that they did not change the tax rate of any of the other alternative fuels.

Federal Policy: Steve noted that a lot of federal incentives are ready to sunset. The 50 cent per gallon tax incentive on propane and CNG is set to sunset, but Congress is likely to find a way to extend it before it does.

There is also a bill to get the Clean Cities program authorized. It has never been authorized before, which is one of the reasons it has never had much funding. The funding in the current

bill is \$25 million per year. That is more than the previous average, but still not a lot. Authorization is one of the reasons why the DERA (Diesel Emission Reduction Act) program has taken off.

5. **Funding opportunities**

Steve announced that the National Clean Diesel Campaign funding opportunity is out, and that we are waiting for more details on that.

Jay announced that Scarborough is using its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding to put a timer on some of its vehicle block heaters. He expects it to yield big energy savings. Scarborough is receiving EECBG funding directly from DOE.

Steve announced that there is also money available for the towns that did not get funding directly from DOE. There is a \$10,000 template grant and a custom grant up to \$85,000 per town. Efficiency Maine is encouraging regional projects, but regional projects are still capped at up to \$85,000 per town. GPCOG is working with towns to help them get in grant proposals.

6. **Project Updates – Local and Statewide** (None mentioned.)

7. **The latest from U.S. DOE**

Motor Week – Steve announced that every other week there will be a spotlight on a clean cities success story on the PBS show MotorWeek. Maine Clean Communities has not submitted anything yet because we do not have anything really new. MotorWeek helps get the word out about Clean Cities, however.

8. **Other Business**

New diesel engines – CARB is raising concerns about toxins in the SCR engines – the engines with urea. 90% of the new engines will have that technology. The toxics include cyanic acid, nitromethane, and hydrazine. The fuel may be cleaner when it goes in, but there are some questions about what comes out of the tailpipe.

Steve recently attended AltWheels in Massachusetts, where he got some materials on electric vehicles. He talked to representatives from ConVerted, based in NH, which converts cars to hybrid electric plug-ins – buying the kits and installing them. But there are issues with voiding warranties.

Jay discussed Scarborough's propane conversion. The police did not like to change where they were fueling, so they are not using propane as much as they could. The Town eventually plans to move all of the fueling over to public works, which will solve that problem.

Steve and Jay discussed the need for aftermarket installations in Maine, and the need to train students in aftermarket installations at Southern Maine Community College.

Steve announced that Rebecca is going to Clean Cities Coordinator retreat in early November and should come back energized.