

BetterFuels



clean air choice™
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®
of the Upper Midwest

A Clean Fuels Publication of the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest

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Earth Day 2008

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Biofuels Critics Threaten The Future Of Alternative Fuel

Earth Day is a good time to take stock of the progress we have made in moving away from traditional petroleum fuels and toward cleaner-burning alternative fuels. While biofuels have always had their critics, the past 12 months have been different. Just as farmers, automakers, biofuel producers and political leaders were coming together to build a real alternative fuel network in this region, a “perfect storm” of biofuels criticism was unleashed. The critics are getting a lot of media attention, which is threatening the fragile partnerships just as the movement was beginning to take off.

Big Oil Strikes Back

While it would be a gross oversimplification to suggest that all negative publicity about ethanol or biodiesel fuel originates from oil companies, their public relations firms or surrogates, it would be a mistake to underestimate the power and influence these multinational corporations have in shaping both public opinion and public policy. The anti-biofuel PR machine has been in high gear lately.

In recent months, biofuels have become something of an all-purpose scapegoat

in some well-publicized reports. Food prices up? Blame ethanol. Global warming? Blame biodiesel. World hunger? It must be biofuels’ fault.

Closer examination shows plenty of room for healthy skepticism about these claims. It is also quite likely that rising petroleum costs, not biofuels, is causing the lion’s share of rising food prices. Many respected scientists have debunked the two recent articles published in *Science* linking biofuels to global climate change. Those who are experienced in fighting world hunger will tell you that it is local wars, ruthless local leaders and localized weather conditions that lead to hunger – not a lack of corn or soy caused by biofuel use in the USA.

The Slowing Economy

The slowing economy has also raised challenges and opportunities for biofuels. With a weak U.S. dollar pushing oil prices – and the prices at the pump – to record highs, interest in biofuels have increased, especially when the alternatives are priced less than traditional fuels. However, the same weak dollar has led to record exports of soybeans, pushing up the price of domestic beans so

high that a number of biodiesel plants have shut down operation, at least temporarily.

The economy has had a negative effect on many state budgets. For example, in Minnesota, a program that provides state funding to help offset the cost of installing an E85 or biodiesel pump is one of the items being eyed for the budget axe in 2008. If this happens, growth of biofuel outlets in Minnesota will almost certainly slow. With more than 340 E85 outlets, Minnesotans have more access to alternative fuels than anywhere else in North America. Loss of this funding will add more challenges to those who want to see cleaner choices available to motorists at every fuel station.

That said, there are more alternative fuel outlets available this Earth Day than ever before, and efforts to publicize and promote cleaner-burning biofuels are underway – the annual “Blues for Greens” event in Des Moines (see page 2) being a good example. The American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest will continue its strong support of E85 and biodiesel, as well as other efforts to reduce air pollution in our region.



Earth Day Festivities Educate Public On Eco-friendly Lifestyles

In celebration of Earth Day, the Iowa Clean Cities Coalition and the American Lung Association of Iowa are hosting the second annual Blues For Greens Festival to promote clean energy, clean vehicles and energy-efficiency on Saturday, April 19th, at the Walnut Street Bridge in Des Moines, Iowa.

This family-friendly event will include a variety of music, food and green exhibitors. Visitors are encouraged to join in the Earth Day festivities and learn more about reducing their carbon footprint.

The event combines music and fitness. T. Albert Lloyd Band, Make Like Trees, The Torpedo Darlings, and The Soul Searchers will provide an afternoon of entertainment after the Earth Day 5K.

Eco-friendly vehicles, including flex-fuel, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid electric will be on display! Many eco-friendly exhibits will educate festival goers on the options available to them for living green.

Upcoming Events

University of Illinois at Springfield Health Fair
April 2, 2008 • Springfield, IL
University of Illinois Campus

E85 Fuel Promotion
April 3, 2008 • 1pm- 4pm • Cosmos, MN
Gary's Repair Fuel Station

E85 Fuel Promotion
April 5, 2008 • 11am- 1pm • New Market, IA
Farmer's Mutual Town & Country

Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Assoc. Trade Show
April 8th - 10th, 2008 • Bloomington, MN
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel

E85 Fuel Promotion
April 11, 2008 • Melrose, MN
Melrose Motors

Future Farmers of America Career Day
April 14, 2008 • Brookings, SD
South Dakota State University Student Union

E85 Conversion Kit Meeting
April 15, 2008 • Saint Paul, MN
American Lung Association of Minnesota

Blues for Greens (Run/Walk/Concert/Festival)
April 19, 2008 • Des Moines, IA
Walnut Street Bridge

Elk River Energy Expo
April 19, 2008 • Elk River, MN
Elk River City Hall Campus

Earth Day Expo & Trade Show
April 19, 2008 • Spicer, MN
Prairie Woods & Environmental Learning Center

Midwest Petroleum and Convenience Trade Show
April 22nd - 24th, 2008 • Indianapolis, IN
Indiana Convention Center

Living Green Expo 2008
May 3rd -4th, 2008 • Saint Paul, MN
Minnesota State Fair Grandstand

Bloom Township Alternative Energy Awareness Fair
May 8, 2008 • Chicago Heights, IL
Bloom High School

Alternative Fuels & Vehicles Conference & Expo
May 11th - 14th, 2008 • Las Vegas, NV
Rio All-Suite Hotel

New E85 Retailers

Hunter Oil
303 Main Street
Hunter, ND • 701.874.2224

Cenex of Long Prairie
904 1st Avenue NE
Long Prairie, MN • 320.732.6670

Chris's Food Center
320 Highway 123
Sandstone, MN • 320.245.2229

Freedom Valu Center
309 8th Avenue SE
Pipestone, MN • 507.825.5310

Nett Lake C-Store
13098 Nett Lake Road
Nett Lake, MN • 218.757.3268

Short Stop Quick Mart (Tesoro)
4725 Quail Road NE
Sauk Rapids, MN • 320.251.4144

Grainco FS
8115 S. State Route 47
Yorkville, IL • 630.553.5440

Super Pantry 10
1212 N Bowman
Danville, IL • 217.431.0439

Super Pantry 51
3810 E William Street Road
Decatur, IL • 217.422.2970

Grant Funding Available!

Retailers interested in installing E85 or biodiesel may be eligible to receive funding.

CALL ASAP! Funding limited in MN, IA, IL, & ND

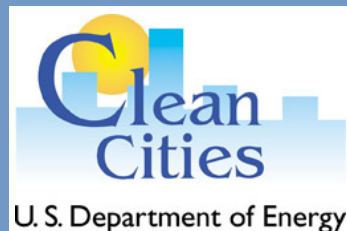
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Visit lungum.org to make a difference today!

For the latest
EVENTS & STATION listing visit:
CleanAirChoice.org

Partner Spotlight: US Department Of Energy - Clean Cities

The US Dept of Energy-designated Red River Valley (North Dakota) Clean Cities coalition will now be headed by the American Lung Association of North Dakota's Valerie Kummer. Valerie takes over for Dan Daly of the Energy & Environmental Research Center, who has led the program for several years. The US Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government/industry partnership focused on mobilizing local stakeholders to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel by accelerating the deployment of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), and building a local AFV refueling infrastructure. The transportation sector has an enormous impact on our economy, our national energy security, and our environment. Moreover, emissions from vehicles are the single largest contributor to air pollution in our cities, making our air unhealthy to breathe and increasing our health care costs. Clean Cities is proof we can work together to effect change by expanding the use of domestic alternative fuels.



Neat Feat: At Least 10 Midwestern Government Motor Pools Named Among Top 100 In Nation

Government Fleet magazine has come out with its list of the "100 Best Government Fleets." At least 10 of these fleets are located in the upper Midwest, and many were recognized for their use of alternative fuels such as E85 and biodiesel.

Honorees are listed below, in order of their national ranking:

City of Fort Wayne, IN: With more than 40 percent "green" vehicles, this municipal fleet uses a combination of E85, B20 biodiesel and hybrid vehicles to lead the State of Indiana in fleet environmental strategies. Ranking: 8th

City of Chicago, IL: This fleet replaced its aging vehicles with green vehicles, bought smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles whenever possible and encouraged ride-sharing. Ranking: 22nd

City of Moline, IL: This fleet operates more than half of its vehicles on either biodiesel or E85. Ranking: 28th

Village of Algonquin, IL: Recognized for reducing both use of fossil fuels and for reducing air pollution. Ranking: 31st

City of Iowa City, IA: Greater use of software has reduced costs and made fleet operations more efficient. Ranking: 35th

Minnesota Department of Transportation, MN: This fleet's E85 usage increased from nearly 17,000 gallons in 2006 to more than 126,000 in 2007. Ranking: 45th

University of Minnesota, MN: An early user of E85, this fleet has also been honored by the American Lung Association of Minnesota. Ranking: 67th

Illinois Central Management Service, IL: More than 40% of the fleet consists of alternative fuel vehicles, including four prototype Ford Escape FFV hybrids. Ranking: 73rd

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, MN: Paid off debt to re-invest in vehicles. Ranking: 83rd

Iowa State University, IA: This fleet has 147 flex-fuel vehicles and its own E85 pump. Ranking: 89th

Mail Carriers Deliver Big Savings On E85 In Two Illinois Counties

The American Lung Association of Illinois and General Motors recently teamed up to create the state's largest targeted mailing to owners of flexible fuel vehicles, offering each five (5) \$10 coupons for E85, redeemable at any one of the 43 participating stations in Illinois. The effort is focused on residents of Will and McLean Counties, where 29 of the stations honoring the coupons are located.

While we have worked with many local auto dealers on coupons, this is the first time ALA-IL has partnered with a major automaker to promote E85 fuel," said John DeRosa, an environmental program manager with the American Lung Association of Illinois. "This is a pilot program that we would very much like to expand to other counties, once we have data on how successful it has been in driving more people to a clean air choice at the pump."

According to DeRosa, more than 4,000 mailings have already been sent to FFV owners in the two counties, and a total of 8,000 mailings are expected to be sent by the end of April 2008. A survey on consumer attitudes on E85 is also in the works, he said, and should be ready in June.



E85 ETHANOL



Crowds gathered to support E85 at the fuel promotion in Newton, Iowa! Pictured on the left, Dave Fisher with Prairie Gas (managing member) and Janelle Kracht with Iowa Corn who both were at the event.

Green Fuels Spring Forth at Prairie Gas

Owners of flex-fuel vehicles in Newton, Iowa lined up for E85 for \$1.85 a gallon on Monday, March 24th at the Prairie Gas station. Located at 4300 S. 22nd Avenue, just off busy Interstate Highway I-80 in Newton, Iowa, the 2-5 p.m. promotion at Prairie Gas was one of the first of many station events and biofuel promotions expected in the upper Midwest this season.

"As gasoline and oil prices rise, so does interest in alternative fuels like E85," said Jessica Zopf, program manager for the Iowa Clean Air Choice

Team. "While many people are attracted by the price, other drivers are committed to using a less polluting, largely renewable fuel that's made in the United States."

The event was sponsored by the Iowa Clean Air Choice Team: General Motors, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, Kum & Go, Iowa Corn Promotion Board, Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores of Iowa, Iowa Soybean Association, National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition, Iowa Biodiesel Board and American Lung Association of Iowa.



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BetterFuels is an official publication of the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest's Clean Fuel and Vehicle Technologies Program.

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Ethanol Plant Looks to Mother Nature For Energy

The wind turbines at the Corn Plus ethanol plant have begun to produce energy. Corn Plus is the first ethanol plant in the nation to use wind turbines to partially supply electricity for the plant. Two wind turbines were erected in July and were initially expected to begin production in August. Due to technological complications, the turbines weren't able to function until about a month ago. Now, all the testing is done and the blades are turning.

The zero-emissions wind energy is replacing electricity that would normally come in off the grid, which in Minnesota frequently comes from coal-fired power plants. The turbines have a 2.1 megawatt output, which could power about 4,000 homes when the wind is blowing. The energy they generate provides about 50 percent of the energy needed at the plant, and the operators are already considering adding more turbines.



Corn Plus produces around 45 million gallons of ethanol per year. Corn Plus is making decisions that are more energy efficient. The company put in a fluid bed technology — which cut its natural gas consumption in half — then added the wind turbines and is now looking at microwave technology for drying its byproduct.

LAST CHANCE!

Clean Air Choice Scholarship wrapping up in South Dakota and Minnesota!

The 2008 Clean Air Choice Scholarship is open to all high school seniors living in South Dakota or Minnesota who will graduate in 2008 with plans to attend college.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
CleanAirChoice.org**

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING: APRIL 30th, 2008

