



NETWORK NEWS

Clean Car Campaign Helps Launch Hybrid Tax Incentive Bill

As part of an unlikely alliance with several key automakers (Ford, Honda and Toyota), the Clean Car Campaign and other major environmental organizations have developed new legislation that would provide significant tax incentives for hybrid-electric and other advanced technology vehicles. Key to the proposal is the inclusion of performance-based incentives that provide greater tax credits for fuel economy and emission improvements. Incentives for hybrid drive vehicles would include a base credit of \$1000 and up to an additional \$3000 depending on fuel economy performance. Similar base and performance credits would be available for electric and alternative fuel passenger vehicles, medium and heavy-duty vehicles (trucks, buses) would also be eligible for credits. There would also be incentives for the purchase, of alternative fuels and development of alternative fuel infrastructure (e.g., natural gas or hydrogen fueling stations).

Ford's support for the bill was critical, and involved a split from their Detroit-based counterparts. GM and DaimlerChrysler have favored tax credits that do not include the fuel efficiency performance incentives. Honda and Toyota have begun selling efficient (50- 70 mpg) hybrid electric passenger cars today, while GM and DaimlerChrysler have been planning more modest hybrid offerings (18-25 mpg trucks and SUV's). Ford, however, is scheduled to bring a 40 mpg hybrid SUV (the Escape) to market by 2003.



Toyota Hybrid-Electric Prius

The Clean Car Campaign was a driving force behind the legislation that was introduced in a bipartisan effort by Senators Hatch, Jeffords and Rockefeller on April 24, 2001. The Campaign remain hopeful that the vehicle credits can survive as one of the more sensible approaches to stretching the nation's energy supply.

For information about the legislation, including links to the text of the bill and news coverage about its introduction, see: http://www.cleancarcampaign.org/tax_credits.html, or contact Kevin Mills at Environmental Defense, kmills@environmentaldefense.org, 202-387-3500.

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Clean Car Campaign Launches Newsletter for Industry and Media

The Clean Car Campaign recently launched a newsletter called *Driving Forward*. The bi-monthly newsletter provides information to the auto-industry and the press about current Clean Car Campaign initiatives and successes. To see *Driving Forward*, visit <http://www.cleancarcampaign.org>. For more information, contact Halley Rosen at Environmental Defense, hrosen@environmentaldefense.org, 202-387-3500.

Citizen Ozone Monitoring Network Expands to New Cities

The citizen ozone-monitoring project is expanding this summer within Cleveland and to 3 new cities. Based upon the success of the ozone-monitoring network last summer in Cleveland, Environmental Defense is working with local groups and air pollution officials in Cleveland, Dayton, Atlanta, and Buffalo to collect local ground-level ozone data this summer, 2001.

The network uses newly developed



monitoring technology, called Zikua, to collect data on local ozone levels. The project seeks to 1) empower citizens to gather

The Pollution Prevention Alliance (PPA) joins Environmental Defense with regional, state, tribal, and community-based activists working to promote pollution prevention and sustainable communities in the Great Lakes region. PPA is supported by The Joyce Foundation, The Energy Foundation, and The George Gund Foundation.

The PPA Newsletter is published quarterly by Environmental Defense's PPA staff. Readers are encouraged to submit materials for publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity. Please send all submittals to:

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their own information about local ozone levels and 2) more effectively participate in decision-making processes to address the pollution that causes it. Volunteers collect data daily which will be made available on-line at <http://www.environmentaldefense.org>.

The citizen ozone-monitoring network started in the summer of 2000 in Cleveland, Ohio. Citizens in six neighborhoods took daily readings for four weeks in August and September. This year, the network has been expanded and now includes 50 monitors in Cleveland, as well as 10 monitors in Dayton, Ohio, 10 monitors in Buffalo, NY, and 30 monitors in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, contact Halley Rosen at Environmental Defense, hrosen@environmentaldefense.org, 202-387-3500.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS

Ohio Clean Fuel Corridor Kick-Off

The first Ohio Clean Fuel kick-off meeting was held in Columbus on April 11, 2001. The Earth Day Coalition, the Northeast Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition, and the Central and Southwest Ohio clean fuels coalition are developing a statewide working group of alternative fuel constituents to plan an Ohio Clean Fuel Corridor. The first meeting focused on developing proposals for statewide alternative fuel incentives and laying the groundwork for alternative fueling infrastructure along the corridor route.

The groups aim to develop an alternative fuel transportation infrastructure that enables travel within the state and between states. With already strong alternative fuel markets in Cleveland, Cincinnati and

Columbus, the 'clean corridor' will connect the cities by providing intrastate alternative fuel vehicle use. And, by connecting Cleveland with Cincinnati, via Columbus and Interstate 71, Ohio will be linked with a previously developed corridor connecting Cincinnati, Louisville, KY and Evansville, IN. The fuels to be readily available to the public on the Ohio Clean Fuel Corridor will most likely include ethanol, compressed natural gas, and propane. For more information, please contact Stephanie Strong at the Earth Day Coalition at 216-281-6848, sstrong@earthdaycoalition.org.

EPA Picks Cleveland For Model Air Project

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Whitman kicked off a pilot project in Cleveland, Ohio on March 19, 2001. The project aims to cut health risks from toxic air pollutants. Cleveland was chosen for the project because it is centrally located and has typical levels of air toxics for a mid-sized US city. Whitman stated that "the innovative, revolutionary project we are highlighting here today may save countless lives threatened by cancer or other serious illnesses caused by air toxins. I called this program revolutionary because it breaks new ground in environmental protection. If this is successful, we'd like to expand it across the country."

The project is a non-regulatory, voluntary effort to look at risks generated by outdoor sources including cars, and indoor sources including cleaning agents and pesticides in homes, schools and businesses. It is a partnership designed by stakeholders as opposed to government. The city, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the EPA have formed a group comprised of residents, industry, environmental organizations and city personnel to assess and reduce air toxics in Cleveland. For

more information, contact Kevin Snape at the Clean Air Conservancy in Cleveland at 216-932-8999, ksnape@cleanairconservancy.org.

EPA Announces Final Rule Allowing Dirtier Gasoline Use in Chicago and Milwaukee

In an attempt to keep a lid on summer gasoline prices, the Bush Administration is easing environmental rules. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a final new rule allowing for the use of dirtier gasoline in Chicago and Milwaukee in an effort to prevent a repeat of last summer's record prices. Skeptics claim that the rule eases restrictions on the amount of air pollutants in the fuel, but will not improve supplies of the region's special blend enough to keep prices down.

Illinois and Wisconsin blend corn-based ethanol into their gasoline using special refining equipment. Generally, it is not used or produced outside of the Midwest because it is difficult to transport through pipelines. The EPA's rule will allow refiners to either blend more ethanol into Chicago and Milwaukee's gasoline this summer, or use dirtier pre-blended gasoline.

Not only is the rule environmentally inadequate, it is also quite possible that it will not make a difference in prices this summer. Temporarily, the EPA's action allows for gasoline sold in Milwaukee and Chicago to contain larger amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOC's). The oil industry remains skeptical while the pro-ethanol trade group (Renewable Fuels Association) supports the rule.

Minnesota Governor Signs Bill to Ban Mercury Thermometers in State

Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura signed on April 16, 2001, legislation that will eliminate the sales and distribution of mercury containing thermometers. Republican Representative Dan Dorman and Democratic State Senator John Marty authorized the bill which passes in the house in March and in the Senate in early April. The inappropriate disposal of thermometers is a major source of mercury emissions. Each thermometer contains approximately one gram of mercury- it only takes one gram of mercury to cause fish contamination in twenty acres of water.

Health Care Without Harm, an international coalition concerned about the environmental health impacts of health care, was a driving force behind the bill. The bill is a major victory for environmental groups in Minnesota and is a step in the right direction to get mercury out of other products.

Michigan Activists Demand the Cleanup of the State Department of Environmental Quality

Hundreds of Michigan residents spoke out at a hearing in Lansing on April 19, 2001. Residents of communities from all regions of the state told stories of harm to health and property as a direct result of the State Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) refusal to enforce existing law. DEQ management's hostility to public participation in decision-making, was at the forefront of the arguments. The agency was also accused of collusion with corporate polluters and big developers.

Citizens pointed to quantitative evidence of the rapid deterioration of Michigan's

environment. Under DEQ head of five years, Russ Harding, Michigan has suffered:

- A 47% increase in out-of-state solid waste dumped in Michigan, and an 80% increase in Canadian waste exports to Michigan last year;
- The near tripling of hazardous waste imports into Michigan since the early 1990's;
- A 17% increase in toxic emissions from utilities in Michigan from 1998-1999;
- A four-fold increase since 1998 in the number of monitored polluted lake and stream acres designated as too polluted for designated uses;
- A near doubling of the number of monitored lake acres contaminated by high levels of mercury since 1998.

Michigan activists are calling for reform of the DEQ by requesting:

- The replacement of DEQ Director Russell Harding because of his bias in favor of polluters;
- Creation of a citizen panel to govern the DEQ;
- Tougher laws to boost recycling and cut down on dumping of out-of-state waste in Michigan;
- A mandate to DEQ to enforce anti-pollution laws vigorously;
- Protection of children's health as an underlying principle of all environmental standard-setting;
- Expansion of right-to-know programs to tell the public about the environmental safety of air, rivers and lakes, beaches, and drinking water.

For more information about the hearing and this reform agenda, contact James Clift at the Michigan Environmental Council at 517-487-9539, jamesmec@voyager.net.

NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court Lets Lower Court Decision Stand Allowing for Tougher Air Pollution Standards on Indigenous Peoples' Land

Last year, the US Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia Circuit decided on tougher air pollution standards on the lands of Indigenous People. The Supreme Court upheld the decision on April 16, 2001. A coalition of the State of Michigan, business groups, and utilities claimed that applying the strictest standards on Indigenous Peoples' land threatens environmental, development and energy policies on land outside of their jurisdiction.

The coalition asked the Supreme Court to roll back 1998 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules giving tribes air quality jurisdiction over lands held in trust for Indigenous People but not actually part of a reservation. And, the coalition challenged the EPA's decision to define reservations by exterior borders.

The business-utility coalition claimed that protecting reservations can end or disrupt business activity 60 miles away if that activity would harm air quality. The Supreme Court decision to let the rule stand was backed by Acting Solicitor General Barbara Underwood who argued for the EPA.

EPA and the National Wildlife Federation Oppose Power Plant Lawsuit on Mercury

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) each filed motions in court on April 9, 2001. The motions were

to dismiss the electric utility industry's attempts to overturn the recent EPA decision to regulate mercury and other toxic air pollutants.

The Utility Air Regulatory Group and Edison Electric Institute, two electric utility trade groups, recently filed a lawsuit in the federal court of appeals in Washington, DC. The groups demanded that the power industry remain exempt from the national emissions standards required for every other major source of mercury. NWF and a coalition of environmental groups filed a motion to dismiss the electric industry's lawsuit against the EPA. At the same time, the EPA filed a separate motion to dismiss the industry action.

Felice Stadler, national policy director of NWF's Clean the Rain Campaign, stated that "even while we applaud EPA's action, NWF and its coalition partners will continue to actively oppose industry's legal and political efforts to stop or weaken EPA's development of a national mercury standard for power plant emissions."

US EPA Releases Latest TRI Data

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the latest data available in the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) on April 11, 2001. The latest data is from the 1999 reporting year which marks the second year of reporting by facilities in seven new industries added to the TRI program. These sectors include, metal mining, coal mining, electric utilities, commercial hazardous waste treatment, chemical wholesaling, petroleum bulk terminals and plants, and solvent recovery services.

The 1999 reports show that chemical releases continue to decrease for the manufacturing industries that have been subject to reporting since 1988. Chemical

releases by the industries added to the reporting list in 1998 increased between 1998 and 1999. The entire increase was attributable to one mining facility. Excluding that facility, chemical releases from new industry sectors would have decreased by 3.4%.

Reporting by facilities in the new industries has expanded the amount of information available. However, the TRI program only requires that specific industry sectors report if they use or transport over a certain amount of specific chemicals. To view the new TRI data, visit <http://www.epa.gov>, or call the EPA TRI program division at 202-260-1488.

EPA Analysis Concludes Link Between Tiny Soot Particles and Premature Deaths

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded in an analysis of the science behind the EPA proposal to purge fine soot from the air, that there is a strong link between tiny soot particles and premature deaths. The analysis considered more than 3,000 new health studies published since the EPA proposed rules in 1997 to cut soot levels produced mainly by power plants and vehicles.

Business has fought the rules from the start saying that the science was suspect and the costs of implementation would be enormous. So far, the Bush administration has not indicated whether it will change the soot rule. To view the analysis, visit <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/>.

RESOURCES

From Policy to Reality: Model Ordinance for Sustainable Development

Minnesota Planning. This living document provides tools to help communities make the best choices today for their future health. The guidebook leads participants through citizen participation, growth management, managing community resources, neighborhood design, infrastructure, resource-efficient buildings and economic development. For a copy of the report, contact the Environmental Quality Board Sustainable Development Initiative at 651-297-1257, sustain@mnplan.state.mn.us, or visit <http://www.mn.plan.state.mn.us/SDI/ordinancestoc.html>.

Pollution Prevention: EPA Should Strengthen Its Efforts to Measure and Encourage Pollution Prevention

United States General Accounting Office (US). In this recently issued report, the GAO recommends that the Environmental Protection Agency 1) clarify Toxic Release Inventory reporting requirements to obtain better pollution prevention data from firms, and 2) improve review of its regulations for source reduction effects. The report also briefly describes the extent to which pollution prevention is used and the Agency and outlines key factors that both encourage and discourage prevention. The report (Number GAO-01-283), dated February 21, 2001, released on March 26, 2001 can be viewed on the web at <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?rptno=gao-01-283>. For information, call the GAO at 202-512-3841.

Local Solutions to Global Climate Change: Programs that Protect the Climate

International City/Country Management Association. The report highlights successful climate change programs from cities across the country. The case studies, written by or in cooperation with the local government officials implementing the program, are divided into chapters on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Environmental Management, Transportation, and Community Growth and Development. For a copy of the publication, contact Jennifer Folta at 202-962-3554, jfolta@icma.org.

WEB WATCH

Health-Track:

Health-Track, a new national public health project, launched a website that provides information on cancer death data and environmental toxins linked to cancer. The site provides a map of cancer hot spots in the USA and toxic chemicals at the local level. <http://www.health-track.org>

INFORM:

To encourage consumers to buy products that do not contain persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals (PBT's), INFORM has compiled fast sheets on products used by building construction and maintenance departments, public works departments, vehicle maintenance facilities, health care facilities, education institutions and arts departments. <http://www.informinc.org/PBT.htm>

Ohio Citizen Action:

Denny Larson's tour of Ohio teaching how air-sampling buckets can help good neighbor campaigns can be seen on-line. <http://www.ohiocitizen.org>

CALENDAR

July 11-13, 2001 (Madison, Wisconsin),

Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable Conference, sponsored by GLRPPR.
For information, contact Deb Jacobson at 630-472-5019, djacobso@wmrc.uiuc.edu.

September 24-26, 2001 (Chicago, Illinois),

Brownfields 2001 Conference, sponsored by the International City/County Management Association. For information, contact Lisa Milligan at 508-888-8616, lmilligan@icma.org.

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