The 2019 Summit was a tremendous success with more than 40 Clean Cities Coordinators and over 125 industry leaders attending. Roundtables featured top leaders from the electric vehicle, natural gas, propane, biofuels, and anti-idling industries.

The February 2020 Energy Independence Summit (EIS) takes place as the various alternative fuels initiatives continue to gain momentum across the country. The Summit will feature sessions on new opportunities created by growing state and local programs that provide funding and incentives for clean vehicles and infrastructure.

For more information Go to: http://tep.sre.events/

Clean Transportation Industry Wins Big in Final FY 2020 Spending Bill

The clean transportation energy industry won several big victories as the House and Senate reached an agreement on an FY2020 spending bill. The House passed the bill on Tuesday, and the Senate approved it in short order, The President signed the Bill into law before the December 20th funding deadline. The bill includes a number of key provisions, which ACFC and, Transportation Energy Partners have been suggesting for several years. Read about the Wins on page 4.

First VW Mitigation Funding Awarded in Alabama

On December 27, 2019, ADECA notified eleven recipients of their being awarded funding as part of the $5.8 million first round of Alabama VW Mitigation projects. Go to www.adeca.alabama.gov to read the Press Release and list of winning projects. Watch for second round RFP in early 2020.

Since 2009 ALABAMA has reduced FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION BY 47.5 MILLION GALLONS!

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2019 in Review: Just some of the Well-Attended ACFC Workshops and Site Visits

Biodiesel Workshops
The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC) working with World Energy (WE) successfully planned, organized, and conducted two regional workshops in Alabama. The target audience for the 2019 workshops were Fleet Managers, School District personnel, Federal/State/Local Government personnel, fuel distributors, vehicle technicians as well as consumers. The focus was to debunk myths surrounding biodiesel and provide education on the benefits of using biodiesel in vehicles and fleets. A total of 58 folks attended. More info at www.worldenergy.net

National Drive Electric Week
Economics, the environment, and the sheer pleasure of driving top the list of reasons shared with nearly 5,000 visitors to Birmingham’s National Drive Electric Week Showcase at The Market at Pepper Place. Owners of electric vehicles – EVs – took time out of their weekend to share their experiences about the fast growing trend of driving without relying on fossil fuels. Alabama manufacturers, such as Mercedes Benz, Honda and Hyundai, are working hard to build electric vehicles and provide the good paying jobs that are necessary to produce them. EVs are a winning proposition for the economy as well as the environment. https://driveelectricweek.org/events.php

New Flyer of America Site Visit
ACFC, working with New Flyer management, facilitated a visit to the Anniston, Alabama, location of both the New Flyer production operation and the Vehicle Innovation Center (VIC). The Anniston facility produces conventional fueled transit buses plus those fueled with alternative fuels – electric, CNG, and hydrogen. The buses are shipped to transit fleets throughout North America. Motor Week, at the request of ACFC, produced a 5-minute segment on the New Flyer facility. Check it out at: https://youtu.be/4e9In_3Eb_U

Autogas Answers Workshop
The use of Propane Autogas as a transportation fuel in Alabama doubled in 2018 over 2017. We expect the same in 2019. One of the best attended AutoGas Answers workshops in the nation was held in Montgomery in October 2019. Cleaner burning alternative fuels are making a vast difference in lessening air pollution. Propane Autogas reduces nitrogen oxide pollution by up to 96 percent compared to ultra-low sulfur diesel engines. Plus, propane is also typically 30 to 40 percent lower cost than petroleum-based fuels like gasoline and diesel in Alabama. https://propane.com/for-my-business/fleet-vehicles/

EcoCAR Mobility Challenge
ACFC was pleased to facilitate a site visit and tour at The University of Alabama to highlight UA’s participation in the EcoCAR Mobility Challenge. The EcoCAR Challenge team was joined by U.S. Department of Energy representatives from Argonne National Lab to share information about the current competition that brings college students together to re-engineer a 2019 Chevy Blazer to apply energy-saving technology. ACFC was happy once again to support these bright students in this competition that sparks so much innovation. https://avtcseries.org/ecocar-mobility-challenge/

Waste Management Site Visit
ACFC partnered with WM management to demonstrate the company’s local use of waste collection vehicles fueled by compressed natural gas. The WM Fleet Site Visit explored how Waste Management successfully uses alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles in its continuing endeavor to improve sustainability and clean air in Birmingham and across the nation. Fleets fueling with cleaner-burning compressed natural gas reduce air pollution, thereby helping our environment. www.WM.com

Additional 2019 Workshops and Site Visits included: Regions Bank EV; Earth Day at Birmingham Botanical Gardens; Busworx-Montgomery and more!
In response to the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) third round request for proposals, ACFC collaborated with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to propose Propane Autogas signage ready and signage pending alternative fuel corridors in Alabama. ACFC partnered with U-Haul International and propane marketers on the corridor proposal and it was accepted by FHWA. The propane autogas corridor will augment the existing CNG/LNG Corridors currently established in our state.

These public access autogas sites will provide propane fueling coverage for I-65, I-59, I-20, I-85 and US 280.

ACFC anticipates, with the future availability of VW mitigation money and Electrify America’s initiatives, that Fast Charging electric vehicle infrastructure will soon allow EV corridors to be proposed in upcoming FHWA FAST Act request for Corridor nominations.

To read more about FHWA’s Alternative Fuel Corridors go to: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/
Please Welcome Our New ACFC Member

ERNEST McCARTY FORD

Ernest McCarty Ford was founded in 1983 by Ernest L. McCarty, Jr., Ernest L. (Lee) McCarty III and David E. McCarty and remains family owned & operated until this day.

EMF is located in Alabaster and is the only Ford dealership in Shelby County. Over the years, the company has grown and expanded and employs approximately 100 people between the main store in Alabaster and at the satellite Quick Lane Tire and Auto Center in Calera.

The Ripple: Winter 2020

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