



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 17, 2010

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Brian Atkinson  
(205) 532-0079

## **Biofuels...Moving Alabama Forward**

### **Workshop provides comprehensive view of biofuels**

**Dothan, AL** – Over 80 individuals attended an informative workshop on domestically produced biofuels today at the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center. The workshop featured national biofuel experts offering insights into current and future applications for biofuels in Alabama, including biodiesel, ethanol, compressed natural gas (CNG), and propane, and electricity. These alternative motor fuels reduce our dependence on foreign oil, are cleaner burning for the environment, and create domestic jobs for the economy.

The workshop coordinated by the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition included sessions from state leaders including an outline of ADECA activities to build positive economic growth from the use of biofuels and a summary of the importance of agriculture in the Alabama biofuels industry from the Alabama Department of Agriculture. These presentations were followed by an enlightening presentation on Alabama's unique position to be a future leader in biofuels illustrated by Auburn University's Natural Resources Management & Development Institute.

Alabama Power representatives were on hand to discuss the future of plug-in electric hybrid vehicles including when to expect them at a dealership near you. These vehicles are coming soon.

A representative from the Boone Pickens Company, Clean Energy Fuels, highlighted the benefits of CNG as a motor fuel. Clean Energy is the largest provider of CNG in North America with customers including refuse, transit, port, shuttle, taxi, regional trucking, airport and municipal fleet markets.

Alliance AutoGas and Blossman Gas joined with CleanFuelUSA to answer the question of why propane is the right choice right now for motor fuel use.

Perspectives on the use and quality of ethanol and biodiesel were provided by national representatives from Growth Energy and the Renewable Energy Group. Growth Energy, a national organization, is dedicated to utilizing agriculture and ethanol to grow the American economy. Renewable Energy Group produces over 25% of the quality biodiesel in the U.S.

Other sessions described real world experiences with alternative fuels and fleets. A municipal perspective was offered by Hoover's Director of Fleet Management, which has been recognized nationally and internationally for its fleet initiatives involving alternative fuels. Airport Express, which utilizes CNG for its Birmingham to Atlanta passenger shuttle service, shared their experience, as did Alabama Power on the use of biodiesel in its fleet. The McPherson Company spoke to the realities of retailing alternative fuels in Alabama.

The enlightening workshop was designed to appeal to a broad audience. Among the many groups that attended the event for its relevant and practical information represented city, county, and other governmental agencies and officials; fuel producers, distributors, and retailers; school districts, colleges, and universities; fleet and transportation managers; the media; and interested consumers.

Ethanol and biodiesel are alternative fuels produced from plant materials ranging from the current staples of corn and soybeans to the growing feedstocks of pine, switchgrass, and algae. Compressed natural gas, largely made up of methane, is extracted from gas and oil wells while propane is liquefied petroleum gas produced from processing natural gas and oil. Electricity, produced largely from coal, wood, nuclear and hydropower, is gaining popularity to power vehicles with new models coming soon to showrooms.

For more information about the workshop and future alternative fuel events log on to [www.alabamacleanfuels.org/Workshops](http://www.alabamacleanfuels.org/Workshops) or call Mark Bentley, Executive Director of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition at 205-402-2755.

“This publication was prepared with the support of the U. S. Department. of Energy (DOE) Grant No. DE-FG26-05R410960 and the Energy, Weatherization and Technology Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA-EWT). However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of DOE or ADECA-EWT.”