



## **Florence Hosts First Biofuels Workshop**

**FLORENCE, AL** – Top leaders in the biofuels industry from across Alabama and the nation descended on Florence today with a wealth of information on alternative fuels. This one-day workshop, its first time in Florence, provided background and utilization prospects for a range of fuels including Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), propane, biodiesel, ethanol and electricity. The workshop was designed to help fleet managers, city and county government, fuel retailers/distributors, school districts, business leaders, and the general public make informed decisions and facilitate transitions to alternative fuels in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, increase local economic development, and improve our air quality.

Mark Bentley, executive director of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition said he was pleased with the attendance and the enthusiasm of the crowd. "With gas prices on the rise, there has never been a more appropriate time to discuss and promote alternative fuels that save families money, and that's exactly what we did today."

The Biofuels Workshop was brought to Florence by the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition, a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs – Energy Division. The Florence workshop was the sixth in a series (2008: Birmingham, Decatur, Montgomery, 2010: Dothan, 2011: Mobile and Florence) designed to provide factual, up to date information on alternative and advanced technology fuels and vehicles available today.

"One of the most attractive exhibits was the Chevy Volt, the Motor Trend 2011 Car of the Year®," Bentley said. "People have heard a lot about these

amazing electric vehicles. Today, they got to see some of them up close and personal with an opportunity to ride or drive.”

The workshop, which was open to the public, featured several nationally and statewide recognized speakers, including Mayor of Florence, Bobby Irons; Assistant Agriculture Commissioner Glen Zorn; Kathy Hornsby from ADECA's Energy Division, Clean Energy's Dave Mizerowski, The Renewable Energy Group's Larry Breeding; The American Coalition for Ethanol's Ron Lamberty, Leslie Wallace from Heritage Propane, Ted Pfister representing General Motors Company and many others. The workshop was held at Cross Point Church in Florence.



**L-R: Mark Bentley, Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition Executive Director; Kathy Hornsby with ADECA's Energy Division; and Ted Pfister with General Motors Company standing beside a 2011 Chevrolet Volt.**