The Times They Are a Changin’… a letter from the editor

A great songwriter/philosopher Bob Dylan once wrote those infamous words, "The times they are a changin’". If your old enough to remember the lyrics or even if you have never heard them or of him, the words still ring true today. Maybe even more so.

Over 21 years ago the Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program joined the ranks as the 3rd Clean Cities coalition in the nation. Part of the Department of Energy’s newly formed federal program in response to the Energy Policy Act of 1992., the mission was to reduce petroleum consumption within the transportation sector. The mission seemed simple; replace gasoline and diesel, with alternative fuels. An easy mission for the founders of the program, The City of Philadelphia, or so they thought. By having a large enough fleet on their own they thought that being mavericks in an immature industry would be a simple process, "We will want it, and the industry will give it to us." That could not be any further from the truth.

The industry sputtered and fought hard to break out with new technologies and alternatives to petroleum. Many OEM’s had early prototypes or limited production of vehicles and from what I have been told, many early adapters including the City of Philadelphia had to "rig" technologies themselves. As a coalition, in the early days, we had a few sustaining members that had a vested interest in those new technologies. The program also sputtered at times and ebbed and flowed according to the price of gasoline and diesel; when prices were high, we had greater interest in alternatives, when prices were low or perceived low, less interest in our program.

21 years later WE’RE STILL HERE! I started with the program in 2007, first as a board member, before becoming the Executive Director for the past 5 years. 7 years ago there were only a handful of stakeholder and I mean that literally, The DOE was concerned about how we were going to survive and get fleets involved and more importantly how would we get fleets to convert their vehicles. To your credit, industry support and newly found resources within our own state we have grown in leaps and bounds. As you can see in the box to the left, all of your generous support and hard work has helped make us who we are: a fuel neutral; dot connecting; project management, and premier promoter of alternative fuels, vehicles and technologies.

To that end, I would like to thank all of you for helping us get where we are today. In keeping up with the times, we proudly announce a change of our territory that now cover 34 counties of central and eastern PA; a name change to Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation (EP-ACT); a change to our web-site: ep-act.org; and a change to the way we will interact as a coalition. Stay tuned for more, for the times they are a changin’...

Sincerely,

Tony Bandiero- Executive Director
EP-ACT Hires New Program Coordinator

On November 3rd, 2014, EP-ACT hired some new talent to grow the organization. Doug Kripke, fresh-faced college graduate from the University of Michigan. His prior experience working as an intern for Clean Energy Coalition in Ann Arbor MI while he continued his studies for Nuclear Engineering made him a natural fit. His passion, professionalism, multifaceted talent, and extensive knowledge of the Clean Cities culture has given him the tools needed for our expanding program and made him a perfect candidate as EP-ACT’s new Program Coordinator.

Doug’s familiarity with creating fleet-specific energy analysis reports allowed him to hit the ground running at EP-ACT. As Program Coordinator he will work to increase EP-ACT’s visibility through rigorous social media presence and blogging. In his first three weeks, he has helped construct and launch our new website, www.ep-act.org. Doug is excited to gain experience in grant writing, program coordination, and education outreach. Furthermore, he looks forward to working with all our stakeholders, and keeping them enthusiastic and up-to-date on their projects and current industry trends. Please join us in welcoming Doug to our program. He can be reached at dkripke@ep-act.org.

Department of Energy National Clean Cities Meeting Slated for Denver

Early in December most of the nation’s 88 Clean Cities will converge in Denver, CO for our National Meeting. The 3 day session will take place at National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) headquarters in Golden, CO. This annual pilgrimage helps the Department of Energy and all of the coalitions communicate face to face.

The meeting is meant to help coordinators better understand DOE policies and procedures related to deployment activities; facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned from practical experiences gained when introducing alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles across the country. This is also an opportunity to review DOE and National Laboratory projects, tools and information resources, that we can pass on to our stakeholders. The program will show coalitions how build partnerships that can leverage public and private sector funding.

The agenda includes sessions on Coalition strategic Planning; Niche Market Partnering; and Federal and State Policy sessions to name a few.

This annual meeting allows interaction between coalitions from across the country. It is invaluable time for us to share what works, what doesn’t, what’s hot and what’s not. During the meeting, we breakdown into similar business types sessions, our group is the "stand alone non-profit" group. The session will discuss best practices, sustainability and marketing for non-profits among other topics. We will then utilize our newly learned information and resources and share it with our stakeholders and potential stakeholders to help achieve our coalition’s mission, of petroleum reduction, within the transportation sector.

State of The Coalition Meeting Scheduled for February 18th 2015

Please save the date for Feb. 18th 2015. This is the date for our State of the Coalition Meeting. This annual meeting will discuss the past year’s activities, the current state of the coalition (including current projects), and the coalition’s plans for the upcoming year.

This meeting is meant for both stakeholders, potential stakeholders, and interested parties. Per all our events, there will be food and networking opportunities.

Our feature speakers are invited guests that include a federal point of view a state representative and a regional alternative fuel advocate. You do not want to miss out!

Registration for the event is free. You can register on our website at www.ep-act.org/events/1795464.

The event will be held at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission’s Office in Philadelphia on the 8th floor at 190 North Independence Mall West.