On April 13th the Wolf Administration announced the approval of funding to support 19 alternative fuel projects statewide. These projects will save The Commonwealth hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel and reduce air pollution in Pennsylvania. The Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant (AFIG) was established in 1992, to help build markets for advanced, renewable and alternative energy transportation technologies.

Since the inception of the program, EP-ACT and its predecessor Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities have been the successful recipients numerous times. Some of our earliest successes were the E-85 Corridor, EV Charging-1st in State and The Southeastern PA CNG Vehicle Conversion Initiative. Our organization regularly participates in this funding mechanism, which is vital to ensuring alternatives to gasoline and diesel become available throughout the Commonwealth.

In this round of funding, 3 of EP-ACT’s stakeholder members received funding for their projects. Our member AAA Club Alliance received funding to help offset the cost to purchase 2 propane vehicles that will be utilized in their towing fleet; Sharp Energy received funding to help construct a propane refueling station for their customer DHL; and Rhoads Energy received funding to help offset the cost of a propane refueling station and to help purchase 8 dual fuel propane vehicles. Congratulations! And thanks for making a difference. For news release click the following link: AFIG Announcement

The Votes have been counted, and in early April, EP-ACT’s Board of Directors selected the 2018 Award winners. There were many qualified applicants to receive the awards but there are only 5 awards to give out. We narrowed down the field of nominations to 5 companies we thought exemplified what each award represents. We appreciate the dedication each company has for alternative fuels and their support of the mission of EP-ACT, which is: “To drive the wide scale use of cleaner fuels, vehicles and technologies that will reduce our dependence on imported petroleum by promoting alternatives to it.”

Our awardees were honored at our 2nd Annual Golf Outing and Awards Luncheon, on May 17th at the Blue Bell Country Club. The winners from the field of nominees are as follows: ADVOCATE AWARD: Worley & Obetz

INDUSTRY SUPPORT: Air & Gas Technologies

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VISIONARY: Rhoads Energy

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE: AAA Club Alliance

ALTERNATIVE FUEL LEADERSHIP: Aqua America

For a complete description of the awards please click: EP-ACT 2018 Awardees. Our 2nd Annual Outing showcased a variety of alternative fueled vehicles in front of the Blue Bell Country Club. The day’s events began with a breakfast followed by 18 holes of fantastic golf and gourmet luncheon.
On May 5th, the PA Department of Environmental Protection announced the opening of the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant. Commonly referred to as AFIG, this program supports the mission of EP-ACT.

The program funds three types of projects concerning alternative fuels, vehicles and technologies. The categories are: Vehicle Retrofit or Purchase Projects, Alternative Fuel Refueling Projects, & Innovative Technology Projects. This program has been running for more than 15 years and is legislatively funded using a small percentage of the utility taxes to help implement these projects.

EP-ACT and its stakeholders have been fortunate to utilize the funding to implement many types of projects throughout the state. In years past, we have done ethanol projects, electric charging station projects and many natural gas and propane projects. We have partnered with numerous businesses to put more than 1,000 alternative fueled vehicles on the road since our inception 25 years ago.

There are a few notable changes to the program this year:
- For new alternative fuel vehicles you can request 100% of the incremental cost of the alternative piece up to $40k per vehicle (20kWh battery and over for EV’s)
- EV’s with a 10kWh and 20kWh battery may request 75% of the incremental cost up to $20k per vehicle
- For existing alt fuel vehicles to retrofit you can request 50% of the incremental cost up to $20k per vehicle

Do you have a project idea? Do you want help with the grant writing process? We can assist you and answer questions you have about this program. We have over a 90% success rate applying to this program, and can also provide you with a fleet analysis to help you decide which alternative fuels and vehicles would best suit your fleet.

The Program is open all year, 1st round submissions are due July 13th.

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Upper Moreland Township School District
Honored by Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence

EP-ACT’s Sustaining Member, Upper Moreland Township School District (UMTSD) was honored on April 24th at the Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence. In a ceremony held in Harrisburg, Upper Moreland School District was one of 23 awardees throughout the state to be honored for their work in helping preserve the environment.

The award sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection & the Pennsylvania Environmental Council recognized the district for converting its school buses to run on propane and installing a propane station which other neighboring organizations can also utilize.

With the help of EP-ACT, their fleet replaced 41 buses that ran on diesel and gasoline to propane/autogas. This conversion helped the district displace 50,000 gallons of diesel and 10,000 gallons of gasoline annually. This reduction in fuel will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 596 tons per year. Another benefit by converting to propane school busses is the financial savings of over $250,000 annually.

Upper Moreland Township School District has been a great ally for the propane bus industry in Pennsylvania. They welcome other school districts to their facility to inspect the buses and ask questions about the process of converting.

“We did our due diligence prior to diving into this major fleet decision,” says Matthew Malinowski the Business Manager for the school district. “We wanted to reduce our emissions for the children and drivers who ride the buses as well as save money for the school, and propane was the logical fit.” replied Malinowski.

UMTSD is recognized as a leader in the industry and Kelly Rhodunda, Transportation Director, was invited to speak at the ACT EXPO in Long Beach California in early May. In addition to EP-ACT, Blue Bird and Rhoads Energy’s were also vital partners in this Initiative. Congratulations Upper Moreland School District!
EP-ACT’s Stakeholder PDC Deploys Hydrogen Fueling in Japan

In late March, PDC Machines, headquartered in Warminster PA, announced their 1st commercial deployment of their hydrogen refueling appliance. Partnering with IVYS Energy Solutions, the appliance, called Simplefuel®, is a compact self-contained station for refueling hydrogen powered vehicles. This was selected as the fueling of choice for a Japanese company to fuel its forklifts. Working with the Japanese Environmental Ministry, PDC demonstrated their fueling system as a needed piece to provide environmentally friendly fueling sources for handling equipment and as a transportation fuel. Simplefuel® was developed as part of the Department of Energy’s H₂ Refuel H-Prize competition, which challenged American innovators to create solutions that could provide a path for greater adoption of Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV’s) by drastically improving the performance and affordability of small-scale hydrogen fueling infrastructure. The system uses electrolysis to generate high purity hydrogen and has the ability to dispense fast ‘opportunity’ fills or full fills up to 700 bar (a metric unit of pressure). This is a promising 1st commercial opportunity. The goal of the system is to help promote environmentally friendly hydrogen for continued use in transportation. Hydrogen storage powers a battery in the vehicle, and the only emissions from the vehicle are water vapors.

Alternative Facts
(truths about alternative fuels)

The 1st electric car was invented in 1884 by English inventor Thomas Parker

Mark Your Calendars:

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For more info and promotional discounts, contact: tbandiero@ep-act.org