On November 24th EP-Act held it’s 22nd Annual Stakeholder meeting in Philadelphia at Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission’s offices. As custom the meeting began with a welcome and introductions of over 60 people in attendance. Brian Keelen the Chairman of the Board began the intro’s and stated: “We want to get to know who’s who in the room, so you can know who’s who in the room. Our organization is designed to work together to accomplish things that all of us can benefit from...”

The meeting proceeded by an overview from Executive Director Tony Bandiero, on what accomplishments were achieved by the alliance in 2015. Noting an award from the DOE for most improved propane usage throughout the country. Darren Stevenson from the DOE then provided information about the importance of the annual alternative fuel data collection, and how that helps our program both locally and at the federal level.

Part of the 2nd round of state funding, commonly known as “Act 13” funding, sustaining level stakeholder UPS has completed The Keystone State LNG Conversion Initiative. The project was slated to take 2 years to complete ending in Spring of 2016. UPS finished the purchase and deployment of 20 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in September, for their Mechanicsburg PA location. They plan on converting many of their long haul tractors at this location to LNG. They currently have 64 running on LNG in Mechanicsburg. This project represents UPS’s 1st LNG project east of the Mississippi. PA will get to know UPS’s use of alternative fuels. They will be utilizing LNG; CNG and Propane in their familiar delivery trucks making a commitment to purchase over 200 within the state over the next few years. UPS has more than 3,800 register vehicle traveling PA highways and local roads. Nationally UPS has made a commitment to use alternatives wherever it is viable. UPS is a member of the National Clean Fleets Partnership. A program run by the DOE’s Clean Cities that helps large fleets nationwide, traverse alternative fuel and vehicles.

The crux of the meeting was designed to help attendees familiarize themselves to what specific alternative fuel vehicle platforms were available from “The BIG 3”- Chrysler (now Fiat-Chrysler) Ford and General Motors each had representatives speak about current and future vehicles and what they see on the horizon for alternative fueled vehicles. The “plus 1” included engine maker Cummins Westport and Freightliner to address heavy duty CNG platforms.

The audience was engaged as the program proceed to the culmination of the renowned networking luncheon. Participants were encouraged and did network over the luncheon sponsored by our presenters. “This annual meeting provides our stakeholders and potential stakeholders a glimpse of the value we bring and the commitment we have to helping fleets navigate the world of alternative fuels, vehicles and technologies.” remarked Bandiero. For the agenda information about the event please go to: November 2015 Annual Meeting Presentation.pptx

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July 15th- EP-ACT held its 5th annual The Only Smoke In The Air (TOSITA) – EV Workshop and networking BBQ. The day celebrates Electric Vehicles (EV’s) and promotes the idea that the only smoke in the air comes from the networking BBQ that immediately ensues, and not from the tailpipes of any of the vehicles on display.

This year’s event showcased many vehicles including: Nissan Leaf; VIA’s extended-range pick-up truck; GM’s Chevy Volt; Ford C-Max Energi hybrid; Mini-E; BMW i-3 and the star of the show the e-lion all electric school bus.

The e-lion school bus was the debut of an all electric Type C bus on the east coast. The bus had many in attendance praising the quality and appreciating idea of getting to children to school on anything but a diesel fueled school bus.

This annual event is becoming more popular as more OEM’s bring EV’s and hybrid vehicles to market. There were nearly 60 people in attendance, to view the presentations please click on the link:

**July 2015 TOSITA - EV Workshop**

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In mid October, EP-ACT helped organize 2 separate workshop geared at helping school districts in southeastern PA learn about alternative fuels for their buses. The workshops held at Lower Merion School District (LMSD)and Rosetree Media School (RTMSD) district were led by project partner DVRPC. The mission was to provide useful information so districts can make informed purchasing decisions.

The workshop’s are part of a project called The Pennsylvania Partnership to Promote Natural Gas Vehicles (P3NGV). This is funded in part by the US Department of Energy’s Vehicle Technology group. The project’s goal is to help sanitation fleets and school bus fleets by presenting information and options to help convert from diesel to natural gas as a fuel.

These workshops included industry experts whose expertise included vehicles; maintenance facilities; and station construction. The workshops were held at both LMSD & RTMSD’s maintenance facilities, where the attendee’s got to see all the moving parts and the technologies. Also included were information and a school bus that runs on propane. For more information go to: [Natural Gas and Propane School Buses Workshop and Tour](#)

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**1st Responders Learn 1st hand from EP-ACT**

Often we take for granted the job of a 1st responder, we don’t think of the training they need or their qualification, yet we expect them to be able to help when the time comes. Many 1st responders in the state of PA are volunteer squads, they have day jobs and their 1st responder status as a fireman or a 1st aid person come into play when an accident occurs. Too often, new technology in vehicles surpass the knowledge these volunteers receive.

Our coalition along with Clean Communities of Central New York held a 1st responders training session for Compressed Natural Gas vehicles. These sessions were held in Luzerne & Wyoming counties in northeastern PA. The 3 hour sessions covered the stations, the vehicles and the mechanical parts in the fueling systems. The program was an introduction to CNG as to get 1st responders familiar with what they will soon be seeing in that particular area of the state as natural gas usage increases as a vehicle fuel.

This is one of the many valuable services we offer the public for alternative fuels and vehicles.

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In the Energy Independence Summit provides a unique opportunity for Clean Cities Coalition and leaders in the clean transportation industry to network and build partnerships with each other, and with key Congressional and Administration policy makers in Washington, D.C.

As we approach the critical 2016 elections, the Summit will provide an important opportunity to educate key policy makers about the need for incentives, tools, and resources to overcome barriers to the widespread use of cleaner vehicles and fuels. As Alternative Fuels continue to grow, learn what new technologies and market developments will be critical for adoption of Alternative fuels an vehicles. This is your opportunity to learn from the nations leading clean transportation experts through key educational sessions and presentations.

**Support EP-ACT by Attending the ENERGY INDEPENDENCE SUMMIT**

On Capitol Hill day, join us and other Clean Cities Coordinators from around the country and industry partners that will talk directly with Congressional and federal agency officials about alternative fuel and advanced vehicle and infrastructure projects, and other successes achieved with the support of government leaders and industry. The day will close with a networking reception hosted by UPS and attended by key members of Congress and their staff. This opportunity takes place February 7-9 at the Liaison Hotel, just a few blocks from the nations Capitol Building.
Alternative Fuel Data Report due March 15 2016

One of the most important parts of our work is to show how we have been performing collectively as a coalition. This entails obtaining data from each one of you about the alternative fuels, vehicles and technologies you utilize in routine operations. We can also include information about the number of impressions we made, that is, events we attended, showcased or demonstrated in and how we helped affect a decision to move towards alternatives. Each year the more than 80 coalitions across the country submit this annual report. We are happy to say that in the 22 years of the program’s existence, collectively Clean Cities have displaced over 1 BILLION gallons in 2014. This is a long way from our goal of displacing 2.5 billion gallons by 2020. Please stay tuned, we will be holding a webinar to discuss the proper way to fill out the data collection tool. In 2014, our coalition displaced close to 1.9 million gallons of imported petroleum. For more information please click below:

Goals & Accomplishments

A Stakeholder Story-
Facility Development
Staying on Schedule

Like any other type of facility, when it comes to constructing your CNG facility, you try to develop a reasonable project schedule. But several difficult parts include identifying and closing on the right property, securing zoning approvals and building permits, and obtaining sufficient gas supply. With CNG facilities, the latter two can be especially problematic. In some cases, local officials and residents have an unrealistic fear of the unknown which must be recognized and managed early. This includes a mistaken belief that CNG facilities present a threat of catastrophic explosion. In all cases, understanding the behind-the-scenes permit decision makers and the permitting process is critical to getting the right answers in the right order. In one recent project, Zarwin Baum attorneys had particular knowledge of applicable permitting requirements that were rarely triggered in other projects, and that delegated decision making to an arm of the municipality that would not normally have such authority. We were able to spot the issue early and focus on the key individual required for getting the necessary approvals, so that the project could proceed quickly and efficiently. In another recent project, our attorneys jumped in to assist with identifying suitable properties and negotiating the terms of purchase. While these issues certain surface in non-CNG projects, the added complexity of CNG projects more strongly demands that all aspects be handled effectively. For more information contact Paul Schmidt at:

For information on becoming a member please click here