



U.S. Department of Energy  
Energy Efficiency  
and Renewable Energy



# Capital District Clean Communities

## Recent Accomplishments & Future Goals

**Deb Stacey**

Northeast / Mid-Atlantic Region  
Clean Cities Coordinator Peer Exchange  
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## Coalition Status and Sustainability

- **Current Status**

- The coordinator for the Capital District Clean Communities coalition is a full-time employee for the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Albany, NY area.
- About 12.5 percent of the full-time position with the MPO is spent on coordinator duties.

- **Membership Structure/Strategies**

- The CDCC does not collect dues from coalition members.
- Members are recruited by word of mouth, contacts made by other coalition members, contacts made at local conferences, etc.

- **Steps to Become Self-Sustaining**

- The MPO views the Clean Cities activities as important to the region. The goals of Clean Cities fit nicely with other activities that the MPO is involved in, especially the Transportation Demand Management activities. The MPO will continue to support the Clean Communities coalition activities provided that the *required* coordinator activities do not interfere with other activities and responsibilities that the coordinator is involved in as an employee of the MPO.



## Significant/Noteworthy Vehicle Projects

- **Six hybrid-electric Gillig transit buses were recently delivered to CDTA, the region's transit authority. These buses will be deployed on the new Bus Rapid Transit corridor.**
- **CDTA will order 23 additional hybrid-electric transit buses in 2008.**
- **The State of NY continues to replace their vehicle fleet with hybrids, flex-fuel and CNG vehicles. In 2006 approximately 79 Hybrid-electric, 85 Flex Fuel and two CNG vehicles were added to the NYS fleet and deployed in the Capital District.**
- **NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has been pursuing a "green parks" initiative. There are a number of NYS Parks located in the Capital District area. There are 65 electric vehicles located in the Capital Region's parks. The Parks Department has also been purchasing green mowers.**



## Significant/Noteworthy Fueling Infrastructure Projects

- **Campus Mobil, a privately owned Mobil station received grant monies from NYSERDA and opened a public ethanol fueling station in the City of Albany near the SUNY campus.**
- **A public ethanol pump will be installed (by the same owner) at a Mobil in Warrensburg, NY which is in a prime location for visitors to the Gore Ski Area, Lake George and the Adirondacks.**
- **Once UL issues are resolved, the NYSTA will install public ethanol pumps at all travel plazas along the NYS Thruway, including the three travel plazas located in the Capital Region.**
- **John Ray Sons, a private fuel distributor began to offer bio-diesel at a retail fueling station located in the city of Troy. Interest in bio-fuel is growing. Mohawk Paper, a small company in Cohoes converted its fleet of five trucks to bio-diesel because of availability of the fuel at the Troy location.**
- **Sprague Energy started blending bio-diesel at the Port of Albany in March 2006. Sprague recently doubled the storage capacity of bio-diesel from 20,000 gallons to over 40,000 gallons.**
- **The NYS OPRHP plans to install two “Phill” units at the Saratoga State Park. All diesel park equipment at the Saratoga State Park runs on B-20.**



# Significant/Noteworthy Expanded Portfolio Activities

- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM)**

- ✓ TDM pilot programs (that have expired but had permanent results):

- Approximately 200 employees of NYSDEC and the Albany BID permanently switched their commute mode because of CDTC's TDM program and continue to take transit to work.
- Approximately 138,000 VMT and 5,900 gallons of fuel are saved *monthly* because of these programs.
- CDTC is pursuing a similar program for the large NYS workforce (20,000+) employees that is located in the area.

- ✓ Commuter Register Program

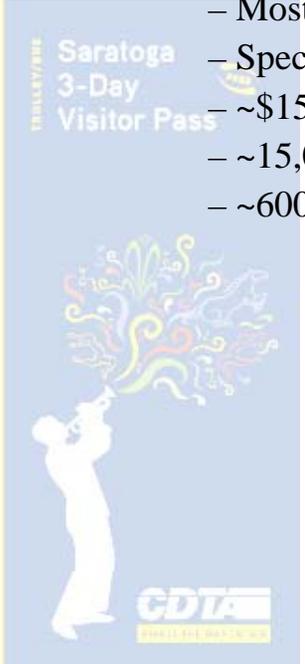
- On-line program that allows area residents to advertise for free for a carpool
- Have tracked success since the program inception (1989)
- About one-third of all people listed find matches
- Average commute distance of a carpooler is 30 miles one-way
- Average carpool duration is 2.5 years
- This program reduces annual VMT by approximately 264,000 miles and reduces fuel consumption by over 11,000 gallons.



# Transportation Demand Management (continued)

## • Saratoga 3-day Visitor Pass Pilot Project

- Tested During Summer of 2006
  - 19 Distribution Outlets
  - High % First Time Saratoga Visitors
  - Many Were First Time Riders
  - Most are Willing to Pay, at least a nominal fee
  - Specialized Market --Income, Car Available, Not Regular Transit Users
  - ~\$15,000 Cost
  - ~15,000 mile reduction in VMT
  - ~600 gallons of fuel saved



Route	2005	2006 (total)	% Change	2006 (used 3-day pass)
Trolley	5,659	6,109	8.0%	778
Regular Routes (June, July, August, to 9/12/06)	17,015	21,692	27.5%	2,852
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,674</b>	<b>27,801</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>3,630</b>



# Innovative Projects

- **Albany's HyIMPACT Project (CDTA, Albany International Airport and American Wind Power & Hydrogen)**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Phase**
    - Vehicles**
      - two HICE Escape SUVs – CDTA
      - two Silverado pickup trucks - AIA
    - Fueling facilities – skid mounted**
      - tube trailer, compressor, high pressure storage and dispenser
      - Two year supply of commercial **hydrogen**
  - ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup> Phase – GE Hydrogen Bus Development**
    - FTA grant – \$6.695 million + GE matching funds for light weight, battery dominant hybrid fuel cell transit bus development
    - AWP&H will modify the existing building for **hydrogen** related activities; expand fueling station capacity and store and maintain the bus at the Airport
    - CDTA will supply drivers, test the bus on the Route 5 (BRT) corridor and fuel at the Airport
  - ✓ **3<sup>rd</sup> Phase – CDTA Hydrogen Bus Fleet**
    - \$5.25 million appropriation request made for one light weight battery dominant hybrid HICE transit bus, one light weight battery dominant hybrid fuel cell transit bus and supporting infrastructure and an expanded fueling station
  - ✓ **4<sup>th</sup> Phase – Low Cost Hydrogen**
    - Hydrogen from Airport's Waste Water Digester
    - Methane in digester off gas, now flared, can be converted to **hydrogen**
    - Joint effort planned with Air Liquide and H2GEN
    - FAA has requested concept outline
    - Hydrogen from gasification of Town of Colonie municipal solid waste
  - ✓ **Albany's HyIMPACT Project is a high profile project**
    - National and international companies will support the effort:
      - Air Liquide      Quantum      Integrated Environmental Technology
      - Air Products      Roushe/etec
      - General Electric H2GEN
    - AWP&H and Albany Nanotech will propose a liquid **hydrogen** fueling station at Nanotech's campus
    - Mercedes-Benz and BMW are potential partners



## Goals for 2007 & Beyond

- **Diesel Retrofit Program using CMAQ Funds**
  - Carve out \$\$ for off-road applications
  - \$2M programmed over 5 years
- **Capital Region NYS Employee TDM Program**
  - Transit Pass Purchases using pre-tax dollars
  - Staggered Work Hours/Flexible Work Hours
  - Compressed Work Week
  - Occasional Use parking
- **TMA at Harriman/SUNYA/CESTM**
  - A TMA serves as a transportation information center, providing employers and commuters access to information on transportation related issues.
  - TMA's serve specific geographic areas. Service areas include Central Business Districts (CBD) or downtown areas, cities, suburbs, specialized activity centers, and others.
  - A TMA often provides TDM services such as shuttles, vanpools, worksite trip reduction planning, rideshare matching, guaranteed ride home, and many others
  - Many TMA's educate employers, developers, and commuters about transportation problems and solutions.