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NEWS RELEASE

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2009 RUN FOR CLEAN AIR ABOUT LOCAL ACTION

Local Action is Necessary to Improve East Tennessee's Air Quality

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Knoxville, TN – Saturday April, 11th is the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition's 6th annual Run for Clean Air, presented by the 2009 Title Sponsor Alstom as well as a crowd of other clean air action supporters. The event is a 5k run/walk with attached activities focused on raising awareness about our air quality and what we can do to improve it.

In 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated multiple areas through the country as non-attainment for air quality. In most cases, these areas have ozone and/or PM-2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 microns and smaller) levels higher than allowed under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These standards are designed to protect the public from exposure to unhealthy pollutants that can lead to lung disease, heart disease, and asthma. Knox and surrounding counties were recently redesignated for nonattainment. Essentially all of the counties in Tennessee that are not meeting these standards are in East Tennessee.



The ETCFC is housed within the **Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment** at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

2009 Founding Partners:



We need to take action to meet the EPA's goals in the coming years, not only to reduce significant health risks, but to reduce the threat of losing transportation project funding in the near future.

The event works specifically to discuss the transportation sector's connection to our local air quality, and support the ETCFC. The ETCFC is currently working to get federal funding in use to help improve our air quality. Here is a short list of funding that is available right now for transportation related projects in our area:

- › \$300 million through the Dept. of Energy (DOE) Clean Cities program
- › \$378 million through the DOE for transportation electrification projects
- › \$170 million through the EPA for diesel emissions reductions act (DERA) funding

The ETCFC, the local DOE Clean Cities program, is working with multiple regional partners to get them applying for funding to put advanced, alternative fuel vehicles in use here. At the Run, we will have about 20 local, alternative fuel vehicles and higher fuel economy vehicles (like hybrids) on display for citizens to learn about. Here are some examples of vehicles that will be at the 2009 Run for Clean Air:

- › KUB's hybrid bucket truck
- › New Honda Insight Hybrid
- › Biodiesel vehicles and ethanol as E85 flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs)
- › ZERO electric motorcycle
- › Modern Electric Tractors Inc.'s (METI's) full electric riding lawn mower
- › Gatlinburg CNG police cruiser (it is a pursuit vehicle)
- › Professional grade propane mower
- › ZENN full electric car

In addition to the vehicles on display, we host a Hybrid "Ride-n-Drive" each year. The Ride-n-Drive is a chance for the community to test drive and learn about hybrid vehicles available at local dealers like Rick McGill's Toyota, Rusty Wallace Toyota, and West Side Honda. Five-to-seven hybrids will be on-hand for test drives immediately following the Run. The ETCFC will have a drawing to give away a Nintendo Wii game system to the participant who test drives the most hybrids.

"It is all about learning about our problems and what the options are for each and every individual locally to make a difference. This event can be a boost for that learning and action," says Jonathan Overly, Executive Director of the ETCFC. "It doesn't hurt that on top of improving air quality, we reduce dependence on foreign oil. The T. Boone Pickens Website notes that just in February 2009 alone, we sent \$13 billion dollars overseas for foreign oil. If we start putting that money back into the U.S. economy, that will turn into jobs for Americans and greener transportation sector actions for all of us."

The event begins with onsite registration at 7:30am at the southwest end of Cherokee Boulevard. The race will start at 9am, after a group-stretch lead by Becky Fox of Fox Fitness. The event will also feature local music from "The Frost Bottom Boys," massages from New Horizon Wellness Centers, food, door prizes, and great awards for the race winners in each category.

For more information visit www.RunforCleanAir.org. The ETCFC would not be able to host and manage the event if it were not for all our great sponsors, including: Alstom, WBIR, B&W Y-12, Knox County Air Quality Manangement, West Side Honda, Growth Energy, Regal Fuels, Metro Pulse, EZ Stop markets, WUOT, Blalock Companies, Friends of the Smokies, Jim Gray Galleries, B-97.5, Retro Mow, Farragut Press, Midnite Oil, Camel Canvas, Spectra Environmental, Strata-G, Stowers Caterpillar, and Dollywood.