



NEWS RELEASE



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GOAL OF EAST TENNESSEE SMART ENERGY ODYSSEY IS PUBLIC EDUCATION

Regional Partnership to Bring Cleaner Energy Choices to Downtown Chattanooga

Chattanooga TN – On Friday, October 3, a wide spectrum of businesses, nonprofits and public entities will convene in downtown Chattanooga to showcase smart energy options for consumers.

The East Tennessee Smart Energy Odyssey is a joint effort of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCFC) and the Chattanooga Green Committee to reach out to the public on energy education. The Chattanooga Green Committee was appointed by the mayor to recommend ways for the City of Chattanooga to reduce its carbon footprint and become more sustainable. The ETCFC is a collaborative effort of East Tennesseans to reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve regional air quality and sustainability. The two groups are aimed at educating consumers about smarter energy options through both mobile and stationary displays.

Approximately 30 different organizations will provide accessible “hands-on” displays that encourage citizens to immerse themselves in cleaner energy technologies. The event will take place at Miller Plaza in downtown Chattanooga from 11am until 7pm. It is free and open to the public.

Gene Hyde, Chair of the Chattanooga Green Committee, explained, “The timing for this event is excellent. We are all concerned about our nation’s energy use and growing fuel costs. Everybody is looking for ways to offset expensive energy bills. There should be some good models and examples for people to see and follow.”

Jonathan Overly, Executive Director of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition added, “Building partnerships to identify smarter transportation and stationary energy technologies is our country’s most urgent task. Educating citizens on the options they have is our best way of accelerating the change we need. We are happy to partner with the Chattanooga Green Committee in this timely and important showcase.”

Cleaner vehicles, renewable energy technologies and energy conservation tools will be featured at the Odyssey. The extensive list of exhibitors is provided at <http://eerc.ra.utk.edu/etcfc/odyssey08/index.html>. Some 15 vehicles should be there for participants to climb into and test on a dedicated ride-and-drive downtown route.

Just one of the cleaner fuels offered at the Odyssey will be biodiesel, and local fuel producers will be there to discuss regional supply. Additionally, local fuel supplier JAT Oil is offering up to 5 gallons of B20 (20 percent biodiesel blended with 80 percent petro-diesel) to attendees who are driving diesel vehicles. B20 can be used in all diesel vehicles; they need not be converted.

For more information about the ETCFC and the Chattanooga Green Committee, visit these Websites: <http://www.ETCleanFuels.org>, or <http://www.chattanooga.gov/ChattanoogaGreen>.