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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## HARD WORK PAYS OFF - ETCFC AWARDED TOP NATIONAL CLEAN CITIES COALITION IN 2006 Executive Director Singled Out as Coordinator of the Year

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Phoenix, AZ - During the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Clean Cities Congress & Exposition that ran May 6-10, three coordinators were selected out of the roughly 90 coalitions across the United States to receive honors for being leaders in their class. The top honor, Coordinator of the Year, was bestowed upon Jonathan Overly, the executive director of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition.

"It is an honor beyond belief," says Overly. "To be selected by your peers—Clean Cities coalitions and related industry and trade groups—as a top performer sends a strong message that *there* is a team that is getting things done. If we didn't have many great partners to help our talk turn into action, we would not have won. It takes a dedicated, proactive and growing team to achieve such, and that is exactly what we have in East Tennessee."

With a little over four years under their belt, and only a year and half since becoming a designated coalition under the U.S. DOE's Clean Cities Program, this is big news for East Tennessee. This achievement points to a vibrant effort underfoot. This group is making a difference by effectively spreading the message of the "why" and "how" of alternative fuels. And thanks to a recent evolution of the DOE program, other actions and technologies that can also improve regional air quality and simultaneously help our country reduce its oil dependence have been added to that focus, to make the crucial advances that are needed to return our country to greater self-reliance.

Some examples of regional partners that are taking action include:

- Municipalities like Chattanooga, Sevierville and Johnson City moving their fleets over to using alternative fuels
- Farmers co-ops like those in Blount, Washington and Bradley Counties beginning to offer biodiesel blends to their farmers
- Industries like Eastman, Frerichs Sawmill and Lodge Manufacturing becoming leaders in their communities by advancing the use of biodiesel
- Fuel suppliers like Benton Oil, McNutt Oil and Appalachian Oil offering biofuels to their customers
- Oak Ridge and Maryville schools requesting the coalition come and teach the basics of alternative fuels to their classes so that the leaders of tomorrow can have a strong foundation on which to make good decisions for our country

Steve Gossett of Eastman says, "The ETCFC has made a real difference in East Tennessee. It has been amazing to both watch and participate in the coalition's efforts to promote use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles. Congratulations to ETCFC for this well deserved recognition." Bob Colby of Hamilton County government adds, "We all are breathing better air by reducing our dependence on oil in East Tennessee with cleaner, alternative fuels. Hats off to those helping make it happen."

Overly adds, "Our work will probably never be done, but receiving this award is a sign that we're making progress. We invite East Tennesseans to join with us as we become one of the most proactive communities in the nation taking action with alt fuels."



The ETCFC is a designated participant in the U.S. DOE's Clean Cities Program

### 2006 Founding Partners:

