

About the ETCFC

The East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCFC) is a group of people who live, work and play in East Tennessee, who are working together to reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve regional air quality and sustainability. It is a voluntary effort.

The ETCFC is a participant in the DOE's national Clean Cities program, which works toward these goals by furthering the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel in the transportation sector. The alternative fuels include biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, hydrogen, natural gas and propane. These fuels are between 90% and 100% domestically produced, versus crude oil, for which the U.S. requires about 55% foreign supply (only 45% domestically produced).



U.S. Department of Energy

Who Are We?

The coalition has a rather simple structure, comprised of a Steering Committee, Coordinator and three Working Committees (see the image below; also, see the stakeholders section of this Web site for a listing of the stakeholders that are participating in each committee). All coalition members/stakeholders participate in one of the three Working Committees, which are:

AFVs & Infrastructure ~ Education & Marketing ~ Legislative

Each one of these committees works to achieve certain goals of the coalition, and utilizes two co-chairs to organize and coordinate working committee activities. In general, the entire coalition considers ideas, projects, initiatives, and other notions that the coalition wants to pursue, looking for consensus among the members. For certain issues that require a more formal vote, or to get a final decision on issues that the coalition cannot reach consensus on, the Steering Committee (made up of nine members) can get together and make a decision by voting. The Coordinator works to keep the coalition on target and on task, organizing much of the coalition's overall efforts, writing proposals to obtain grants and being the central information point for the coalition.

History

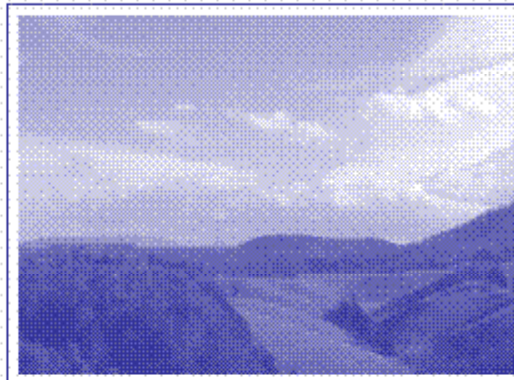
The ETCFC was started in February 2002, with one year's funding from the Tennessee State Energy Office, to work toward developing a Clean Cities program participant in East Tennessee. The goal was to obtain official designation from the national Clean Cities office for the coalition as soon as possible. Once the coalition becomes officially designated, a specific pocket of funding that comes down from DOE is made available, and can be upwards of one-half million dollars in any given year.

In February and March 2002, potential stakeholders were contacted for the process of using alternative fuels to reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve regional air quality. The stakeholders include the following:

- City and county government officers
- State energy, transportation and environmental officers
- Public sector fleet managers and operators
- Private sector fleet managers, especially niche market fleet managers
- Local utilities and fuel suppliers

- Vehicle and equipment manufacturing companies and local dealers
- Trade associations
- Locally based federal agencies, including DOE, GSA, EPA, USPS, and DOT
- Vehicle technicians
- Vehicle training entities (universities, vocational educators, etc.)
- Environmental organizations and community groups

As of September 2002, five stakeholder meetings have been held bringing together almost 60 people from over 30 different companies or organizations. The coalition has completed many organizational tasks, including developing a coalition structure that consists of Steering Committee members and Working Committee members. The Working Committees are 1) AFVs and Infrastructure, 2) Education and Marketing and 3) Legislative. We hope to have our Program Plan completed and submitted to the Clean Cities Program in Washington, D.C. by December 2002.



Recent Activities

Clean Air Week: June 24th - 29th, 2002

Sevier County held a demonstration for alternative fuel vehicles during national Clean Air Week, kicking off on June 24th. Several vehicles were utilized during the week to move people around Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, including:

- An all-electric trolley
- Several hybrid electric buses and trolleys
- Two natural gas buses (big ones!)

In addition, several "ride-n-drive" light-duty vehicles were on-hand, including the Honda Insight, Honda Civic Hybrid and the Toyota Prius. To learn more, contact ETVI (www.etvi.org), who was in-charge of the event.