



STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

June 2020

USDA Announces \$100 Million for American Biofuels Infrastructure



United States
Department of
Agriculture

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture intends to make available up to \$100 million in competitive grants for activities designed to expand the availability and sale of renewable fuels. Funding like this has helped fleets and fuel sites in Virginia and can help you gain access to these lower emission biofuels. [{more}](#)

EPA Awards \$780,000 for Clean School Buses in Virginia through the DERA Program



In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$780,000 to

PLATINUM



replace 39 older diesel school buses in Virginia. The funds are among \$11.5 million going to replace 580 older diesel school buses in 157 school bus fleets in 43 states and Puerto Rico, each of which will receive rebates through EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding. The new buses will reduce pollutants that are linked to health problems such as asthma and lung damage. In Virginia, the funds are going to:

Amherst City Public Schools (\$80,000)
Giles County Public Schools (\$100,000)
Halifax City Public Schools (\$200,000)
Loudoun County Schools (\$200,000)
Roanoke County Public Schools (\$200,000) [{more}](#)

CMAQ Government Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle Incentive is Accepting Applications



The CMAQ Government Vehicle Incentive program, which had been paused since 2018, is now once again accepting applications from qualifying local and state government fleets to transition to propane, natural gas, electricity. There is a new process and new restrictions on what the Program can reimburse, so please go to the program website for more information. Good news: Vehicle conversions to equipment that uses American steel can advance right now, funding up to \$10,000 incremental cost per vehicle! Visit the page or contact VCC for details.

<https://vacleancities.org/reports-2/cmaq-incentive-program/>

Up to \$3,500 Rebate on the Nissan LEAF Now Available!



DIAMOND



GOLD





Eligible customers can receive a \$3,500 rebate on the 2019 Nissan LEAF.

Nissan North America has announced a rebate of \$3,500 for the 2019 Nissan Leaf, the world's best selling electric car. This \$3,500 discount, combined with the \$7,500 Federal tax credit can save \$11,000 for Virginia residents.

For the 2020 Nissan LEAF eligible customers can receive a \$3,000 rebate!

The Nissan Leaf has features including:

- A 151 mile range
- Eco Mode which "limits the motor's output and conserves energy"
- B Mode which further engages regenerative braking to charge the battery
- And many more!

Right now is an excellent time to invest in alternative fuel vehicles by purchasing a Nissan Leaf while the discount is available.

Just download and print the [rebate flyer](#) and present it with a copy of your electric bill to you local Nissan dealer to take advantage of these great savings today!

PlugStar Dealership e-Learning Course Now Available



Plug In America (PIA) is offering our nationwide web-based PlugStar EV Specialist Basic Course to dealers at NO COST until June 15th. If a dealership chooses to participate, we hope this opportunity will help support sales teams and electric vehicle (EV)



sales during this difficult time. [{more}](#)

Project Planning Guide for Environmental and Energy Projects

EPA has refreshed and updated Local Action Framework: A Guide to Help Communities Achieve Energy and Environmental Goals.

Local and tribal governments are doing the hard work of implementing energy and environmental programs on a community level: reducing air pollution, improving air quality, lowering energy costs, supporting local economic development, improving public health, and increasing energy system reliability. This guide is intended to help make that hard, complicated work a little easier.

The guide is designed to help local and tribal governments plan, implement, and evaluate new or existing energy or environmental projects. [{more}](#)

Can Virginia cities turbo-charge their adoption of electric vehicles?

Greater Greater Washington
by Wyatt Gordon
June 3, 2020

Faced with the dual threats of climate change and COVID-19, localities across Virginia are waking up to the danger posed by American society's reliance upon combustion-fueled cars and beginning to look to electric vehicles (EVs) as a solution. In fact, industry leaders and government officials alike believe change must begin with governments' own fleets first. [{more}](#)

VAPILOT: Air Quality Report Leaves Room for Improvement

Originally posted by the Editorial Board of the Virginia Pilot
5/14/2020.

There's good news for Hampton Roads in the American Lung Association's 2020 "State of the Air" report. The area, for the sixth year in a row, is holding firm or improving air quality.

But the report also makes clear that this is no time to become complacent. There is still much to do to make things better and to guard against newer threats to clean air.

The report card analyses data in three categories: average levels of ozone pollution (also called smog) and particle pollution (also called soot), and short-term spikes in particle pollution.

There were several bright spots for Hampton Roads: The cities of Hampton and Suffolk had no change in levels of ozone. Greater Hampton Roads, for the fifth straight year, had zero days when spikes in fine particle pollution made going outside unhealthy.

Overall, the metro area, for the 10th year in a row, had its best levels for fine particle pollution. [{more}](#)

Upcoming Webinar

How Fleets are Using B100 Biodiesel to Lower Their Carbon Footprint

June 24, 2020
2-4pm

[{more information and to register}](#)

Autogas Answers Propane Technology Update



Join us for an action packed 30 minute Autogas Answers webinar. Hear about the fuel, which can reduce emissions and reduce dependence on gasoline and diesel while reducing fleet fuel costs.

June 15, 2020
2-3pm

[{more information and to register}](#)

Webinar: Electric Vehicles 101

June 17, 2020

12-1pm

Curious about getting an electric car, but not sure where to start? Join us for our popular Electric Vehicles 101 webinar to learn the basics! [{more}](#)

Webinar: 5 Ways You'll Save on Maintenance with an Electric Car

June 23, 2020
12-1pm

When you switch to driving on electricity, you can say goodbye to oil changes, mufflers, transmissions, and all the other parts in gasoline-powered cars that require regular maintenance and give you grief with expensive repairs. [{more}](#)



Join Generation180 as we discuss the innovation, growth, perception, and impact of electric vehicle technology and Formula E racing with two world renowned drivers, Lucas di Grassi (Audi Sport ABT Schaffler & UN Climate Ambassador) and Allan McNish (Audi Sport Formula E Team Principal). [{Register}](#)

Alternative Fuel Fleet Inventory Update

It's that time of year again - where Virginia Clean Cities collects information on your incredible alternate fuel fleet progress throughout Virginia!

If you have any significant changes from the December 2019 inventory, or have not responded in over a year, please send us some information on this **quick survey by June 24th!** Responses within two weeks a preferred and we collect this info throughout the year and welcome updates at any time.

As in the past, we have options where you can use the linked

google form, you can type in below and reply to me, or you can print this and mail or fax it back to us.

Online Virginia Alt Fuel Vehicle Survey Link:

<https://forms.gle/BrojR6VY9TTZ11eY7>

VCC Welcomes Quinn Williams as Our Summer 2020 Argonne Intern

Quinn is a rising senior at James Madison University. She is currently majoring in Integrated Sciences and Technology with concentrations in Environment and Biotechnology. She is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc and enjoys spending time outdoors with friends. Quinn is excited to joinr VCC because it provides her with the the opportunity to give back to the same planet that has been misused all these years because of poor control of emissions and pollution. In her free time she enjoys running, entrepreneurship, and spending time with the people she cares about.

Donate Your Vehicle to VCC and Earn a Tax Deduction!



Virginia Clean Cities is a certified motor vehicle charity consigner! If you have a vehicle rusting away in your parking lot that you need to be rid of, and want a tax-deduction for it, we'd love to take it off your hands! [{more}](#)

Support VCC with a Monthly Contribution of \$10, \$25 or \$50

We count on a growing membership base to support the organization and its activities, and you can help our operation by joining us as a stakeholder, sponsor, or partner.

For more information about Coalition Membership, please visit the Coalition's

[Join Us](#) membership page.

You can now support Virginia Clean Cities with a recurring monthly donation of as little as \$10. Your generous support helps VCC deploy EV charging stations, propane schools buses, and CNG transit vehicles. [{more}](#)

New and Returning Stakeholders



Upcoming Events

All upcoming events have been canceled or postponed.

For a full list of rescheduled upcoming events, please visit <http://www.vacleancities.org/events>

VCC is working on a series of webinars that we will share in an upcoming Newsletter.

Thank you for your support of our organization, and we hope you enjoy this newsletter!

For more information from Virginia Clean Cities, please contact Alleyn Harned at aharned@vacleancities.org or (540) 568-8896.



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