

Miami-Dade's Natural Wonders Await Clean Award Decisions

Miami-Dade County is the fortunate home to over two million acres of National Park land. A diminutive fraction of the land is Biscayne National Park coastal area, surrounded by the sapphire waters of the Atlantic. Ten miles offshore rest coral reefs which protect the mainland from the tumult of hurricanes. A few feet below earth's surface trickles the Biscayne Aquifer, providing freshwater to millions of people. The park's proximity to Florida's most populous metro area, its ecological value, and its aging vehicle fleet are compelling challenges which the Coalition and the Park Service hope address through the Clean Cities/National Parks Initiative.



Biscayne National Park Reef

The Initiative supports transportation projects that educate park visitors on the benefits of cutting petroleum use and vehicle emissions, with the end goal of addressing climate change. A funding proposal submitted by Southeast Florida Clean Cities this spring detailed a plan to trade obsolete petroleum-powered mowers, skid steer, forklift, and UTVs for propane and electric upgrades. While watercrafts make up a hefty portion of Biscayne's fleet, this

proposal would be able to assure that 90% of its land vehicles would run on alternative fuels. In addition, the application calls for two electric charging stations. One will be for the Park's new vehicles; the other will be publicly available to advance electric vehicle connectivity among other National Parks in South Florida. Lastly, the proposal details a visitor education component to reach Biscayne's 500,000 annual guests. The outreach would use Clean Cities Coalition resources like the Green Rides Toolkit in order to demonstrate how alternative fuels, parks, and climate change are interconnected.

The boundless river of grass that is Everglades National Park is also in the mix. Propane mowers, electric UTVs, and charging stations are on the wish list. Park officials believe that introducing this electric charging network to the region's parks will draw visitors from an overlooked niche while educating EV doubters about the state's growing charging infrastructure. Finally, Big Cypress National Preserve and the Dry Tortugas are seeking funds through Southeast Florida Clean Cities to support alternative fuels and visitor education.



Miami Skyline as seen from
Biscayne Bay's Boca Chica



Hats Off to the City of Coral Gables in Taking a Big Electric Step Forward



2016 is the Year of the EV for the City of Coral Gables! Automotive Director Steve Riley has recently received the City's order of twenty new Nissan Leafs to be used by employees for City business. Additionally, this purchase package includes ten Level 2 charging stations which will be installed for the public on local streets and in city garages as well as four fast chargers for the City's new Leafs.

Southeast Florida Clean Cities Featured in MotorWeek

PBS' MotorWeek highlighted Southeast Florida Clean Cities and its stakeholders on a recent segment. Featured were Broward County's Paratransit propane fleet and City Furniture's CNG delivery fleet. Participants included Paul Strobis, Paratransit Director for Broward County; Patty Asseff, Clean Cities Chair; and Shaun Feraco, City Furniture Director of Operations.

Broward County Transit replaced 100% of its paratransit fleet with propane autogas in 2014 making it the largest such purchase in our nation's history at that time. The County committed to transforming their 138-van fleet following extensive research and networking with Clean Cities partners that facilitated the transition into propane. Amerigas, a Clean Cities partner, is the propane provider for Broward County. Broward Paratransit consumed over one million gallons of propane the first year with a savings of \$700,000. Strobis indicates the County has saved 3.4M pounds of CO2. The County intends to apply for the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Tax Credit for 2015 and 2016 to help finance this infrastructure which may include new propane fueling stations.

At the Broward County filming, Coalition Chair Commissioner Asseff, focused on the importance of collaboration, cooperation, and communication in public private partnerships. Southeast Florida Clean Cities helps connect stakeholders like Broward County and Amerigas who work together towards petroleum independence.



Motor Week, City Furniture, and Clean Cities staff promoting CNG

City Furniture is one of the Coalition's most active members, with 63 trucks operating on bi-fuel CNG/gas, and five dedicated CNG trucks. City Furniture's fleet was awarded by the Coalition in 2014 for Outstanding CNG Leadership and is ranked #19 in North America's top 100 green fleets. Operations Director Shaun Feraco reported a 23% increase in miles driven with a simultaneous 32% fuel savings from 2014 to 2015! Their Clean Cities partnership assists them in keeping informed about opportunities like state and federal rebates and promotes networking with stakeholders like City of Sunrise, their CNG provider. The company completed their own CNG fueling station in 2014 with 50 time-fill pumps and they plan to transition the rest of the fleet to CNG very soon.



Broward County Paratransit powering with propane autogas

Taking Green Ideas for a Ride with Broward County Public Schools

Southeast Florida Clean Cities started a new Idle Reduction campaign last summer with the Miami-Dade County Public Library System. This campaign uses the IdleBox toolkit from the US Department of Energy and is highlighted by a US Environmental Protection Agency edition of the Magic School Bus series, titled the Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up. Our spring 2016 semester session took place at the Pembroke Pines Elementary School as 90 third graders participated in this three-session event in January 2016. Children read the book aloud to one another, completed a word quiz in groups,



Coalition Intern Natalia Neira educating students

and drew pictures of what they learned in the activity. Children and faculty also enjoyed viewing a plug-in hybrid vehicle in the school parking lot at the end of the session.

We thank Ms. April Schentrup, School Principal and Ms. Mariette Donate, school counselor for allowing SE Florida Clean Cities to spread the word about idling reduction and keeping our air clean. Thank you also to all the third grade teachers for participating and encouraging students to learn and care more about the environment and the air they breathe.

Clean Cities Does Earth Day 2016

The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition participated in several Earth Day celebrations in South Florida earlier this year.

City of Sunrise Earth Day highlighted local programs at public, private, and non profit levels. It involved neighboring businesses, family events, and fun activities. Clean Cities participated along with Weston Nissan and displayed a 2016 Nissan Leaf and offered ride-and-drives to educate the public about electric cars, policy incentives, price rebates.



Visitors admire the Nissan Leaf

Florida International University hosted an Earth Day tabling event with local South Florida organizations, student clubs, and the FIU Office of Sustainability on February 19th from 11am-3pm. Students stopped by to learn as well as to inquire about fuels, EVs, and the coalition.

Clean Cities Spring Meeting 2016



Members and stakeholders met on April 8th for a Clean Cities meeting focusing on electric cars and their future in Florida. Speakers included Florida Power and Light, General Motors, Nissan, and the City of West Palm Beach who all shared their knowledge, programs, and initiatives to make electric cars more accessible. Students from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University that comprise the Eco Eagles Team were featured guest speakers, detailing the design of this year's 2016 Chevrolet Camaro which is powered by E85 and an electric battery. Local companies exhibited electric vehicle charging sta-

tions prior to the meeting and an EV display following the meeting included stakeholders' EVs, a new Ford CMax from Margate Ford Automation, and the Embry Riddle Eco CAR2, last year's competition vehicle, the 2013 hybrid Chevrolet Malibu which took 5th place in the national university competitions. In the weeks that followed this meeting, the Eco Eagles competed in the national EcoCAR3 competition with this year's Camaro which maintained its muscle car power while reducing emissions and won third place for Florida's Embry Riddle!



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Southeast Florida Clean Cities Meeting: Focus on Natural Gas
National Drive Electric Week Event in West Palm Beach
Southeast Florida Clean Cities Meeting: Focus on Propane Autogas

July 22, 2016
September 2016
Autumn 2016

Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Tire Strategies to Save Fuel

What vehicle tire strategies and technologies are available to save fuel?

It's easy to understand why tires are essential to a vehicle, but tires also play an important role in your vehicle's fuel economy. Tires affect resistance on the road and, therefore, how hard the engine needs to work to move the vehicle. By maintaining proper tire inflation or investing in low rolling resistance or super-single tires, you can improve your vehicle's fuel economy. Whether you drive a light-duty (LDV) or heavy-duty vehicle (HDV), there is a tire strategy or technology to help you increase your miles per gallon (mpg).

Proper Tire Inflation: Properly inflated tires increase fuel economy, last longer, and are safer. Oak Ridge National Laboratory estimates that you can improve your gas mileage by up to 3.3% by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. In fact, under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by up to 0.3% for every one pound per square inch drop in pressure in all four tires. It is especially important to keep an eye on tire pressure in cold weather because when the air in the tire becomes cold, the tire pressure decreases.

You can find the proper tire pressure for your vehicle on a sticker located on the driver's side doorjamb or in the owner's manual. Also, check to see if your vehicle is equipped with a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS), which will illuminate a dashboard light when the tire inflation in one, multiple, or all tires reaches a certain pressure threshold. Fleet managers, in particular, may consider using telematics with a TPMS to assist their drivers with maintenance. Even if a vehicle has a TPMS, however, it is still good practice to manually check your vehicle's tire pressure in order to ensure all of your tires are properly inflated.

Low Rolling Resistance Tires: Rolling resistance is the energy lost from drag and friction of a tire as it rolls over a surface. This phenomenon is complex, and nearly all operating conditions can affect how much energy is lost. For conventional and hybrid electric passenger vehicles, it is estimated that about 3%-11% of their fuel is used just to overcome tire rolling resistance, whereas all-electric passenger vehicles can use around 22%-25% of their fuel for this purpose. For heavy trucks, this fuel consumption can be around 15%-30%.

Installing low rolling resistance tires can improve vehicle fuel economy by about 3% for LDVs and more than 10% for HDVs. In LDVs, a 10% decrease in rolling resistance can increase fuel efficiency by 1%-2%. Investing in low rolling resistance tires makes economic sense, as the fuel savings from the use of these tires over the life of the vehicle can pay for the additional cost of the fuel-efficient tires. Most new passenger vehicles are equipped with low rolling resistance tires, but keep rolling resistance in mind when replacing tires.

Super-Single Tires: Reducing vehicle drag can provide significant fuel economy improvements. One way HDVs can reduce drag is by replacing traditional dual tires with one super-single tire—also called a wide-base or single-wide. In Class-8 heavy-duty vehicles, this can save fuel by reducing vehicle weight and rolling resistance. A super-single tire is not as wide as two tires, so there is a slight aerodynamic benefit as well, further improving vehicle efficiency. (Article courtesy of Clean Cities Blog) Clean Cities Technical Response Service Team: technicalresponse@icfi.com, 800-254-6735

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