



## MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM # V.C.

---

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2016

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLEAN CITIES PROGRAM UPDATE

---

### Drive Electric Florida

Electric vehicle (EV) drivers, enthusiasts, and those intrigued by the benefits of driving an electric vehicle joined the Pinecrest Electric Vehicle Tailgate Event in September. The event was tailored to highlight the fun, clean-air benefits and cost-savings of electric cars as part of the annual National Drive Electric Week. Visitors were able to meet and greet EV owners, admire new EV models from local EV dealers, and browse vendors promoting EV aftermarket products. "Electric cars are freeing Americans from the gas pump, cleaning the air of dirty fumes, and best of all – they're more fun to drive," said Village of Pinecrest Mayor Cindy Lerner. Other speakers included Miami-Dade County Commissioner Xavier Suarez and South Miami Mayor Philip Stoddard who encouraged the crowd to drive electric. The event educated the community about how these cars can drive thousands and thousands of miles without any oil or gas while saving money and slashing air pollution and our dependence on oil. Pinecrest's event was one of more than 100 across the country where EVs were spotlighted through similar events. The Coalition's goals for the event included educating attendees and empowering families with the knowledge needed to feel confident in choosing electric for their next car purchases. Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition, Pinecrest Gardens, and electric vehicle dealerships teamed up with National Drive Electric Week national organizers Nissan Motors, Plug-In America, the Sierra Club, and the Electric Auto Association to put on this fun, family-friendly event. The Pinecrest event was sponsored by DOC Bornee USA, an EV charging station and EV technology company.

### Clean Cities National Parks Initiative

Following a guest speaking engagement in June at a Climate Friendly Parks Workshop in Big Cypress National Preserve, the Coalition Coordinator has been working with all four National Parks units in South Florida to develop Clean Cities National Parks Initiatives for funding alternative fuel vehicles, infrastructure and visitor education opportunities.



South Florida Regional Council  
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, Florida 33021  
954.985.4416 Phone, 954.985-4417 FAX  
[www.sfrationalcouncil.org](http://www.sfrationalcouncil.org)

Following a guest speaking engagement in June at a Climate Friendly Parks Workshop in Big Cypress National Preserve, the Coalition Coordinator has been working with all four National Parks units in South Florida to develop Clean Cities National Parks Initiatives for funding alternative fuel vehicles, infrastructure and visitor education opportunities. Joined by a retired Parks ranger from the Northwestern part of the country in early November, the Coalition organized funding application meetings with key staff at Big Cypress, Biscayne, Everglades, and Dry Tortugas as well as assisting with meeting arrangements for Central Florida and Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalitions in order to submit a statewide package of applications for national Clean Cities review in early 2016 For more information, please see the following link: [www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/national\\_parks.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/national_parks.html)

#### Southeast Florida Clean Cities 2015 Alternative Fuel Vehicles Expo

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four joined the Coalition in co-hosting the Southeast Florida Clean Cities 2015 AFV Expo at the District Four headquarters on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Featured was keynote speaker Kelley Smith Burk, Executive Director of Florida's Office of Energy who shared the latest alternative fuel developments statewide. Also highlighted was a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the FDOT District's new electric charging station which was installed recently at their Fort Lauderdale offices for the use of staff and visitors. The Expo included a panel discussion with key public and private sector leaders like event sponsor Amerigas. The benefits of alternative fuels like propane autogas, E85 and E15 ethanol fuels, compressed natural gas, biodiesel fuel, and electric-powered vehicles and infrastructure were discussed. Also featured at the event was an alternative fuel vehicle display which will included a variety of electric vehicles such as the Nissan Leaf, BMW i8, Cadillac ELR, Ford Fusion and C-Max models, and Tesla. Vehicles running on propane autogas and CNG were also featured in the display.

#### Student Internships through the Clean Cities University Workforce Development Program

As described in the previous update, the National Clean Cities Program has been working with Argonne National Laboratory for the past few years to provide internship opportunities for promising university students. Each intern is paired with a Clean Cities Coalition where he or she will learn valuable industry skills, especially related to alternative/renewable fuels, outreach about alternative transportation, and emerging vehicle technologies. Following the highly successful Summer 2015 internship which the Southeast Florida Clean Cities was awarded, the Coalition was again awarded a student intern for the entire 2015-2016 school year. Natalia Neira is a Master Candidate of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida. She joined the SE Florida Clean Cities Coalition in September 2015 as she returned to the Region to finish her thesis. She aims to continue developing the effective use of communication tools developed over the summer, as well as strengthening the Coalition's membership network. Natalia participated in the National Drive Electric Week 2015 event held at Pinecrest Gardens, declaring afterward, "I learned so much at this event about the winning efforts of local governments in making South Florida a model for sustainability and long-term environmental planning. Making information available to the public in this type of setting is essential to take advantage of every opportunity in empowering communities to use alternative energy options that will reduce our dependency on gasoline." Some of Natalia's many responsibilities have been the Coalition's idle reduction and workplace charging campaigns as well as the Clean Cities Alternative Fuel Vehicles Expo. Commissioner Asseff who is the Coalition's Chair and Coordinator Chris Heshmati are pleased to announce that Southeast Florida Clean Cities has yet again received a student intern award for Summer 2016.

## Upcoming Activities

### ***First Responder Training in Alternative Fuels***

As reported earlier in the year, the Coalition partnered with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) and Central Florida Clean Cities in June to host its premier first responder training class in alternative fuels. Held at the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue headquarters, the training featured a certified instructor who provided classroom instruction. Florida's first responder community has again been afforded the opportunity to take part in the creation of a state-wide training network that focuses on alternative fuel vehicle safety. Through the US Department of Energy Clean Cities program, Florida's Clean Cities Coalitions will provide training to fire fighters, training chiefs, and public safety instructors at state colleges on all aspects of responding to vehicle incidents and emergencies involving electric, hybrid, natural gas, and propane vehicles.

### ***Idle Reduction Campaign***

Continuing its idle reduction campaign, the Coalition provides educational materials at relevant events and with fleet administrators in one-on-one meetings. And in January, idle reduction will again be introduced to children in the region with the campaign making use of the IdleBox Toolkit created by the U.S. Dept. of Energy and highlighting a fun and educational book provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entitled, ***The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up***. Our next "Taking Green Ideas for a Ride" story time session will be held at Pembroke Pines Elementary School with third grade classes. "Taking Green Ideas for a Ride" story time sessions will continue through the school year and we are excited to continue this idle reduction campaign in public libraries during Summer 2016 while continuing to ramp up idle reduction efforts with fleet administrators in the region.

### ***Florida Becomes a Winner in E15 and E85 Ethanol Funding***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that 21 states will be receiving grants through the Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP) that will support infrastructure needed to supply more renewable fuel for transportation. USDA Secretary Vilsack declared, "The Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership is one approach USDA is using to aggressively pursue investments in American-grown renewable energy to create new markets for U.S. farmers and ranchers, help Americans save money on their energy bills, support America's clean energy economy, cut carbon pollution and reduce dependence on foreign oil and costly fossil fuels." A typical gas pump delivers fuel with 10 percent ethanol, which limits the amount of renewable energy most consumers can purchase at the pump. USDA estimates that this investment will more than double the number of stations that offer intermediate blends of ethanol, both E15 and E85 fuel levels, nationwide. Florida was awarded up to 892 ethanol pumps – more than any other awarded state - and was fortunate to host the national announcement in October. Coalition member Protec Fuel will be hosting a meeting in Southeast Florida with regional public officials early in 2016 to educate local decision-makers about this opportunity.

### ***Workplace Charging Challenge***

The Workplace Charging Challenge aims to raise the profile of workplace charging and increase the number of employers offering electric vehicle (EV) charging. Through this Challenge, the U.S. Department of Energy provides employers with informational resources, establishes a network of best practices, and recognizes successful workplace charging programs. Noteworthy is Broward County

government which was the first public entity in the nation to accept the Challenge, receiving national recognition in 2014. With over 40% of Southeast Florida residents residing in apartments and condominiums where it may be more difficult to plug-in, workplace charging can be the primary location to charge up each day. During the coming year, in her role as the Coalition's Student Intern, Ms. Neira will be challenging both public and private employers to join in this effort.

Please contact Christine Heshmati of Council staff ([cheshmati@sfrpc.com](mailto:cheshmati@sfrpc.com)) for further information about Clean Cities activities.

Recommendation:

Information only.