

Notes on Promoting hybrid and fuel efficient vehicles and transportation funding

CHAD FRECKMANN

Chad is the Director of Blue Ridge Clean Fuels (BRCF), established in April 2004, to promote the use of alternative fuels in transportation and works closely with the Virginia Clean Cities Coalition and James Madison University's Fuels Diversification Program. BRCF's main focus is on biodiesel education, fuel use and production. BRCF was contracted by the Virginia Division of Energy to provide biodiesel implementation assistance to participating fleets, has coordinated a quarterly Virginia Biofuels Forum and organized and participated in national biodiesel conferences and workshops.

Chad has worked as sales manager at the Virginia Biodiesel Refinery and marketing consultant to RECO Biodiesel LLC and developed a relationship with the fuel distribution industry as well as is familiar with process technology and fuel quality issues. He has assisted large vehicle fleets in implementing biodiesel use; provided biodiesel outreach services to the marine industry as a consultant to the National Biodiesel Board and offers consulting services in biofuels education and implementation. In addition to biodiesel work in the USA, Chad is pursuing numerous biodiesel projects and biofuel based power generation opportunities in the developing world as well as works with a major windpower company in securing real estate agreements for utility scale renewable energy projects.

Prior to his involvement in the renewable energy field Chad spent 20 years involved in international marketing and sales of agricultural commodities and marine navigation technology and has lived and worked in Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

Chad holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science (Middle Eastern Studies) from the University of Virginia, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa and is involved in community planning issues Charlottesville, VA.

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1- Promote hybrid and fuel efficient vehicles

- State Agencies fully implement-EO 48 of 2007 and EO 89 of 2005
 - Long term fuel savings calculated into cost of ownership
 - Support for VA produced alternative fuels
- DMV provide fuel efficiency reminders with all communications
- State provides incentives to 302 Virginia High Schools to purchase fuel efficient, hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles for behind the wheel programs.
- VA Dept. of Education adopt Drivers Education Curriculum that incorporates alternative transportation technologies:
 - driving for fuel efficiency
 - use of alternative fuels.
 - use of alternative technologies

2- “Use and Development of Alternative Energy and Fuel Sources are important for the Commonwealth’s economic development and environment”

Biofuels can provide some substitution for petroleum fuels. Support for local biofuels production can have a positive economic effect.

- VA consumption of on-road diesel 1 Billion gallons (DoE 2005)
 - Use Biodiesel in public transportation to mitigate emissions and promote cleaner air.
 - Support research into new oil seed crops and uses for crush bi-product.
- VA gasoline consumption is 3.8 billion gallons (DoE 2006)
 - Support research at state universities into new Ethanol technologies and non-food crop production for fuel feedstock.

3- Transportation Funding

- Relying on Motor Fuels Tax is problematic.
 - Despite DoE assessment of continued growth in worldwide oil supply, data suggests leveling off of production whilst worldwide demand continues to rise. Higher fuel prices suggest long term per capita reduction in consumption.
 - Passenger and Light Duty Vehicles account for 66% of the national fleet and have an average lifespan of 17 years. Suggests a timeframe to adjust transportation funding mechanism.