

ALERT!

February 2004

ALERT is a monthly update on transportation and air quality planning activities in the Delaware Valley.

all adds up to cleaner air

TRANSPORTATION -AIR QUALITY INITIATIVE

Camden Community Joins DEP "Bucket Brigade" to Fight Air Pollution

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) launched the first New Jersey "Bucket Brigade" pilot project in the city of Camden's Waterfront South Community. The program will train local residents how to collect air samples and measure pollution exposure in their neighborhoods. The Bucket Brigade project is a community-based component of a larger Air Toxics Pilot Project in Camden, which is focusing on industrial and manufacturing sources of air pollution as well as particulate emissions from diesel trucks.

Two community groups are participating in the Bucket Brigade, South Camden Citizens in Action and the Antioch Community Development Corporation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded NJDEP a \$100,000 grant to support the Air Toxics Pilot Project, which includes \$20,000 to the Camden County Health Department to assist NJDEP in collecting air emissions information and to conduct additional air compliance inspections in Camden.

In addition to monitoring air quality through Bucket Brigade efforts, the pilot project will include fine particulate (PM 2.5) sampling. A monitor that measures fine particulate matter has been placed on the roof of the Camden County Utilities Authority building. This monitor uses a continuous sampling and analysis method that allows the observations to be viewed in real-time. The results are now available on the DEP website at www.state.nj.us/dep/airmon/.

PA DEP Awards \$168,678 in Alternative Fuels Incentive Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PennDEP) awarded \$168,678 in Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants (AFIG) to help residents finance up to 20 percent of the costs of purchasing alternative-fuel and hybrid-electric vehicles while fostering innovative technology projects.

AFIG provides economic benefits to the purchasers of new vehicles in the form of energy cost savings and helps stimulate job growth in the state's energy sector. The program encourages the commercialization of innovative energy technologies and the use of fuels indigenous to the Commonwealth.



**February 22-25,
U.S. EPA's 2004
National Air Quality
Conference:
"Your Forecast To
Breathe By"**

Marriot Baltimore Inner
Harbor Hotel,
Baltimore, MD.

For registration info:
www.epa.gov/airnow/index.html

**April 20-22, 2004
National Transit
Institute Free Course:
"Introduction to
Transportation/Air
Quality Conformity"**

Ewing Township, NJ.
For Registration info:
www.ntionline.com

A third of Pennsylvania's ozone pollution comes from gasoline-powered vehicles and refueling operations. Studies show that alternative fuels emit no particulate matter, less carbon monoxide and fewer pollutants that contribute to ground-level ozone than conventional gasoline and diesel fuel.

The \$168,678 will fund 136 projects, including: the purchase of 133 hybrid-electric vehicles (HEV); 12 compressed natural gas vehicles (CNG); and one innovative energy technology project. All but \$46,000 will go to purchase hybrid vehicles. For more information about the program, visit PennDEP's Web site at www.dep.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: "DEP alternative fuels."



CONFORMITY

New Jersey Governor Signs "Clean Car Bill" into Law

Governor James E. McGreevey signed legislation establishing California's Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Program standards to automobiles sold in New Jersey. The LEV program requires reductions in tailpipe and evaporative emissions of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides for all passenger cars, light-duty trucks and sport utility vehicles. This action is expected to reduce air toxins by as much as 20 percent more than federal emission standards. Combined, the stricter standards and the promotion of cleaner vehicles will reduce smog by 19 percent by the year 2020. The bill requires NJ DEP to begin implementation in 2009.

The new emissions standards will require carmakers to produce approximately 40,000 gas electric hybrid cars and 128,000 super clean gasoline cars. For manufacturers that are already working towards these goals, the DEP will provide credits for cars created between 1999 and 2009. Zero emission vehicles, including those bought for lease, will also be exempt from State sales tax and use tax under the new law.

The new law will create the Low Emission Vehicle Review Commission, a 15-member panel, including environmentalists and auto industry representatives, which will determine if the production requirement under the California program is achievable in New Jersey, and if the incentives for production of partial zero-emissions vehicles are sufficient.

ALERT! is a publication
of the air quality planning
division of DVRPC.

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