

# East Tennessee *Clean Fuels Advisor*



A quarterly publication of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition

Bringing alternative fuels and hybrids to the forefront. Alt Fuels = biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, hydrogen, natural gas and propane.

## ETCFC Achieves Official Designation with DOE Clean Cities Program

In January 2004, after almost two full years of working toward creating a designated Clean Cities coalition, the ETCFC was notified that their program plan was accepted in January. We became the 83rd Clean Cities coalition in the United States that has been recognized as an official program participant since its 1992 inception.



Having received official designation, the coalition will now be able to access a long list of benefits provided to designated coalitions. Perhaps the most significant of these benefits is the ability to respond to annual requests for proposals for alternative fuel project funding, which can include money for vehicles, infrastructure and outreach activities.

And what an effort it was! The first organization to thank is the Tennessee State Energy Office (SEO), who funded the coalition fully for its first year.

After that, a wide variety of organizations around East TN have become involved in the ETCFC, and should be thanked for their participation. They include ATTI, AmeriGas, Eastman, EERC, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, KAT, KUB, ORNL, Sevier County Utility District, Sevier Transportation Board, Ted Russell Ford and TVA.

"This is a very good thing for East Tennessee," said Jonathan Overly, executive director of the ETCFC. "This formalizes our effort and will help us recruit more organizations to push alternative fuel vehicles and hybrids into much greater use." Interested organizations can contact the ETCFC if they are interested in learning more about alternative fuels or making a difference in their community's air quality.

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## Biodiesel Gets Started in Blount County

After almost two years of working to get biodiesel used in the community, the ETCFC was pleased to witness the first fleet vehicle testing of the fuel on Friday, March 12, 2004. Thanks to the cooperative work of Clinch River Valley Energy Group's Mike Ellis and Calloway Oil's Tommy Hunt, a 2,000 gallon tank has been installed in Alcoa to allow the fleets of Blount County and the cities of Alcoa and Maryville to try biodiesel before beginning moving their fleets to using the alternative fuel. The kick-off event was held at Calloway Oil's offices off East Broadway where the tank has been placed.

The event was attended by about 5-8 people from each fleet, and by representatives of Calloway Oil and Clinch River Valley Energy Group. Jonathan Overly, executive director of the ETCFC, and Patrick Jaynes from Senator Lamar Alexander's office also attended the kick-off.


"I just wanted to try this out and see if we could make it work," said Tommy Hunt. Tommy was contacted by the ETCFC last August about biodiesel and has been learning about the fuel



A City of Alcoa fleet driver fills up his vehicle's first load of B20 at the kick-off ceremony. The B20 has a low-NOx additive in it to turn biodiesel's typical small NOx increase into a measurable decrease.

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### Clean Fuel Checklist:

- Run for Clean Air – Saturday, April 10, 2004 at Cherokee Boulevard
- Check out the ETCFC Website [www.etcfc.org](http://www.etcfc.org) 
- Be a part of the solution, not the pollution.
- Buy American fuels!





## Sevier County Municipalities Work Toward Implementing Alt Fuel Projects



TOP - City of Sevierville bi-fuel CNG/gasoline Ford F-150  
BOTTOM - Sevier County Utility District bi-fuel F-150 (LPG/gas)

Sevier Countians are another example of a county-wide effort toward alternative fuels. In addition to biodiesel, county municipalities are already using compressed natural gas (CNG) and have plans to begin using propane and hybrids as well.

“We’re proud to be the first city in East Tennessee to approve a city resolution that basically makes us look seriously at an alternative fuel as the first option for new vehicles,” said Doug Bishop, City Administrator for Sevierville. Sevierville already has several CNG trucks in their fleet and is looking to make their mass transit system run completely on propane-fired hybrid trolleys (they currently have no transit system). They’re also looking at biodiesel for their city fleet, and are working out the details for building a multi-alt fuel fueling station that could be accessible by multiple municipalities in Sevier County, the Sevier County fleet, the Sevier County School System, and possibly several local businesses.

Pigeon Forge, which got started on alternative fuels by purchasing several CNG vehicles two years ago, is also

looking at biodiesel, most likely in the Fun time Trolley system. Fun Time Trolley Director Scott Marine notes, “as long as we can work out the cost and the logistics, we’re ready to start real soon.”

Gatlinburg, the Sevier County city that is practically in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, already has 3 CNG police cruisers at work in the city, but they’re not stopping there.

“We are doing our homework up front so that we can be prepared to move our entire city diesel fleet to biodiesel (as B20) by the end of 2004,” said Buddy Parton, Director of the city fleet. Buddy added, “If local organizations are going to start making a difference using alternative fuels, with our proximity to the Park, we want to be on-board in a strong way.”

Buddy’s brother, Dr. Jack Parton, is the Director of the Sevier County School System, and is also looking at biodiesel for the county fleet of school buses (p. 4).

## Biodiesel in Blount County

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ever since, including attending a biodiesel workshop held in Blount County last November that was hosted by the ETCFC. “It gives Calloway Oil a way to start participating in improving air quality in the region, and that’s something that everyone needs to work on,” said Hunt.

Mike Ellis from CRV Energy was equally excited. “Our plans for biodiesel in East Tennessee are just beginning, but there always has to be first steps. Working with Calloway Oil has been great thus far and we hope to build on this strong foundation,” Ellis said.

CRV Energy is planning to site a biodiesel production facility in Sevier County and have it operational by Fall 2004. The size of the facility is not for certain yet, but many relationships are beginning to form with potential

B20 users across East Tennessee and the Southeast United States. “If things go our way in the remainder of 2004, we hope to have established a significant stronghold through supplying East Tennessee and beyond with cost-effective biodiesel,” said Ellis.

As one of the Tennessee counties that is a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blount County has lent an open ear to the ETCFC and is learning about what they can do to help. This work is a great example of their commitment to their community, and to improving air quality across East Tennessee.

For more information on biodiesel, contact the ETCFC at 865-974-3625, or email Jonathan Overly at [jgoverly@utk.edu](mailto:jgoverly@utk.edu).

## ETCFC Moves Forward with Chattanooga Projects

The ETCFC holds district meetings in Chattanooga every other month, and is working to implement electricity and biodiesel projects there.

Working hand-in-hand with Chattanooga’s Advanced Transportation Technology Institute (ATTI), a member of the ETCFC, meetings are held every other month across from the Chattanooga Choo-Choo hotel.

Jerry Sanders, the communication director at ATTI, notes “we’ve chosen to focus on two specific projects

for the near future—an electric station car system for downtown Chattanooga and getting biodiesel into use in several local fleets.”

The electric station car system has been in the works for some time thanks primarily to the efforts of Jim Frierson, a Board member with ATTI.

The biodiesel project is aimed at getting a foothold of biodiesel use in the community, so there are local fleets to refer to as biodiesel use grows.

*“It gives Calloway Oil a way to start participating in improving air quality in the region, and that’s something everyone needs to work on.”*



For more information on the ETCFC and alternative fuels, visit us online at [www.etcfc.org](http://www.etcfc.org)



## Inaugural "Run for Clean Air" to Raise Awareness for Air Quality in East Tennessee - April 10, 2004



The inaugural "Run for Clean Air" 5k run/walk will be held at 9am on April 10 this year.

The ETCFC, in conjunction with the newly formed Regional Clean Air Coalition, is hosting the event at Cherokee Boulevard in Knoxville.

"The reason for creating this event was to bring information to East Tennesseans on what they can

do to improve their own air quality," says Jonathan Overly, executive director of the ETCFC.

Ted Buel, a member of the ETCFC and local architect, came up with the idea and is the race chair. "It is really exciting to see local organizations come on-board for this event considering the need for this information in the community," said Buel. "And with recent news that has surfaced like we're the asthma capital of the entire United States, apparently we have much work to do."

Booths will be setup with information on how citizens can help reduce air pollution in East Tennessee. "And the fun factor will be high" note Buel. Live music, cheerleaders, AFV demonstrations and tons of great prizes will all be part of this inaugural event.

You can read more about the run or register by visiting the run Website, [www.RunforCleanAir.org](http://www.RunforCleanAir.org).



### Join the ETCFC!

The ETCFC works hard to simultaneously reduce foreign oil dependence and improve regional air quality by putting alternative fuels to use in the transportation sector.

This work is vital to our country as there will be a world oil peak in the coming century, perhaps within the decade, and renewable-sourced hydrogen as its replacement is not ready for prime time. Additionally, this work is vital to Tennessee, as our air quality problems are serious and we have to start doing more to change it.

*And we can.*

If you'd like to get involved, come to one of our monthly meetings and hear straight from the fleet manager's themselves how local fleets are making the switch. Go to our website, [www.etcfc.org](http://www.etcfc.org), to see when and where monthly meetings are held.

Also, consider supporting our effort by becoming a member! Membership has many benefits, and includes receiving the ETCFC newsletter, *Clean Fuels Advisor*, free! More membership information can be found on our website as well.

#### PARTNERSHIP LEVELS (annual dues)

Founding Partner	- \$4,000
Platinum Partner	- \$2,000
Gold Partner	- \$1,000
Silver Partner	- \$500
Associate Partner	- \$200
Supporting Partner	- \$25

*The Supporting Partnership level is reserved for nonprofits and individuals.*

## Full Steam Ahead for KAT's Clean Fuels Program

Knoxville Area Transit (KAT), East Tennessee's largest municipal mass transit system, is moving ahead with their Clean Fuels Program.

Barry Greenberg, the director of maintenance for KAT and one of the catalysts of the program, notes that "if things go as we'd like them to this year, we could be running 100% alternative fuels by December 2004."

KAT already has 11 dedicated propane vans and 4 hybrid-electric



Barry Greenberg stands next to one of the Ebus trolleys that they recently received.

trolleys that run on a combination of electricity and a propane-fired MicroTurbine APU.

KAT also plans to begin fueling the remainder of their heavy-duty diesel buses with B20, a common mix of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum-based diesel.

Certainly last but not least, KAT also has already received two Prius hybrids, and has plans for more of those as well. **GO KAT!!**

## Alt Fuel News & Notes

**GRANTS** - The ETCFC has applied for grant funding from several sources to fund coalition projects. Sources include Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and State Energy Program (SEP) funds.

**ON THE RADIO** - Jonathan Overly of the ETCFC was recently featured on the Horne Radio network's morning show "Common Sense." In discussing alt fuels, Elliott Domans, the show's host, noted "this may be the most common sense thing I've ever heard."

**MCMINN COUNTY** - The ETCFC met on March 18 with Bo Perkinson, mayor of Athens, TN, to discuss getting alt fuel projects moving there.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS** - The ETCFC meetings for 2nd Quarter 2004 will be April 8, May 13 and June 10 at the UT Conference Center Building, room 322. The meetings run from 11am-1pm and lunch is served.

**SEAFTEF** - The ETCFC is participating in the Southeast Alt Fuels Task Force to help spread alt fuels use across the four states of GA, NC, SC and TN.

**"WASHINGTON DAYS"** - Visits were made to members of congress in February to educate them to the benefits of alt fuels and garner their support.

**EARTHFEST** - Six AFVs will be at this year's event.



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**Be a part of the solution, not the pollution.**

## Sevier County School Buses to be Cleaner in '04

The Sevier County School System buses will release much less pollution in the very near future. That's the vision of Dr. Jack Parton, the County School System director. Plans are being made to have all the county's school buses running on B20 by this fall, and oxidation catalysts installed as soon as the necessary funds secured.

Through a connection forged by the ETCFC, Dr. Parton is speaking with Clinch River Valley Energy Group about purchasing their biodiesel (as B20) for use in all 143 of the system's diesel buses. "Considering the benefits of biodiesel, we're really excited to get going on this project," said Parton. "The health of the kids on our buses is a top priority for us, and this will help us do more to protect our county's kids."

The biodiesel, that will be consumed as B20 with a low-NOx additive, will bring emissions reductions of between 10-20% for hydrocarbons, sulfur and nitrogen compounds, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, particulate matter and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) compounds.

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel that can be produced locally and can be run in any diesel engine.

In addition, with the help of John Mayo of Fab Industries in Nashville, Dr. Parton is looking into the option of installing oxidation catalysts on all the Sevier County school buses as well. "These devices can bring 40-50% reductions in particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide" says Mayo. The devices are a combination of a catalyst that is installed on the tailpipe and a spirical device that is installed under the hood. "The spirical devices capture a significant portion of the emissions in buses that come off the engine itself that have a greater chance of entering the bus cabin than emissions from the tailpipe" notes Mayo.

Sevier County is looking at a couple of ways to fund the project.



### ETCFC 2004 Partner Organizations

#### Founding Partners

Energy, Environment & Resources Center  
 Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
 Sevier Transportation Board

#### Platinum Partners

Knoxville Utilities Board  
 Dream Works Printing

#### Gold Partners

McNutt Oil  
 Tennessee Valley Authority

#### Silver Partners

Hydrocore