

Volume 3, Issue 3

May 14, 2003

Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM)-NEWS



Who We Are

The Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM) unites commodity organizations, fuel suppliers, educators, producers, businesses, government agencies and individuals who are interested in expanding the production and use of ethanol in Michigan.

ECOM goals include: increasing public awareness on the benefits of ethanol; supporting legislative efforts, encouraging positive ethanol marketing practices and presenting ethanol educational programs to schools, civic groups and other interested parties.

Contact Information

If you are interested in receiving ECOM NEWS or have ethanol-related information to submit for this publication, contact Kelly Launder, MI Energy Office-Biomass Energy Program Manager at (517) 241-6223 or by email at: klaund@michigan.gov

Additional ethanol information is available on the Biomass Energy Program website at <http://michiganbioenergy.org/ethanol>

ECOM Activities

April Meeting

Tim Gerlach, representing the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC), spoke to ECOM and other interested individuals at the April meeting. Tim discussed the environmental benefits of ethanol, Minnesota ethanol incentives, E85 pricing issues, pump labeling, and the federal ethanol tax credit. He also emphasized the importance of ethanol pricing and education to increase demand and encourage further E85 infrastructure development. In Minnesota E85 is typically priced 10-25¢ lower than regular unleaded. This price differential is partially due to the state's small ethanol producer credit, lower road tax for ethanol, and amount of instate ethanol production. Minnesota currently has about 75 E85 refueling sites, with an additional 25 in various stages of development. Many of the stations received grant funding to pay for all or some of the equipment costs, with the stipulation that ethanol would be sold for a minimum of four years, price signs would be visibly posted, and E85 fuel sales would be reported monthly. Tim's presentation is posted at <http://michiganbioenergy.org/ethanol/ecom.htm>. Additional ethanol information is available on the NEVC website at www.e85fuel.com.

Additional Updates

Great Lakes Energy Efficient Motor Rally Educates Michigan Students about Biofuels

The Great Lakes Energy Efficient Motor Rally (GLEEM) visited 15 schools in Michigan from April 21st-April 27th to discuss the benefits of using alternative fueled vehicles (AFVs). Students were able to view AFVs up-close and took an inventory of school buses and family vehicles to determine emission reductions and other environmental impacts from using biofuels versus traditional petroleum-based fuels. Educator materials, photos, and student collected data will be posted on the GLEEM website at www.gleem2003.com.

Ethanol Plant Feasibility Assistance

A new online ethanol production feasibility model is now available from the Agricultural Marketing Resource Center (AgMRC) at www.teambas.com/isu/src/isutop.php. The website provides information on the key components of ethanol production and allows users to evaluate the potential profitability of a production facility using various economic assumptions.

Energy Bill Debate Continues

The U.S. Senate is continuing debate on the 2003 Energy Bill. Part of the discussion will focus on the Renewable Fuels Standard, which will increase the use of renewable fuels to 5 billion gallons by 2012. Also under debate is the measure that would ban the additive MTBE from all gasoline in four years.

Additional Updates –continued

Michigan Biomass Energy Program Workshop and Event Funding Available

The Michigan Energy Office-Biomass Energy Program is offering funding for biomass-related workshops or events. All workshops/events must take place in Michigan and occur before December 31, 2003. There is a maximum award of \$2,500 for each workshop/event. The target audience may include fleets, farmers, student, flexible fuel vehicle owners or other relevant groups. Funds will be awarded on a first come basis until total funds are distributed.

Upcoming Events

Alternative Fleet Fuels Workshop

May 15

Chicago, Illinois

Contact: Energy Management Institute

Website: www.energyinstitution.org

9th National Clean Cities Conference/Expo

May 18-21

Palm Springs, California

Contact: Kim Taylor

Phone: (303) 275-4358

Website: www.ccities.doe.gov

14th Global Warming International Conference

May 27-30

Boston, Massachusetts

Contact: The Global Warming International Center

Phone: (630) 910-1551

Website: www.globalwarming.net

Windsor Workshop: Towards Sustainable Transportation

June 2-5

Toronto, Canada

Contact: Natural Resources Canada

Website: www.windsorworkshop.ca/2003html/general.html

EPAC's 13th Annual Ethanol Conference

June 11-13

Big Sky, Montana

Contact: EPAC

Website: www.ethanolmt.org

International Fuel Ethanol Workshop

June 16-19

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Contact: BBI International

Phone: (719) 942-4353

Website: www.bbiethanol.com

Alternative Fuels Workshop

June 23-27

Carbondale, Colorado

Contact: Solar Energy International

Phone: (970) 963-8855

Website: www.solarenergy.org/altfuel.htm

Assessing the Sustainability of Biobased Products

June 26-27

Norman, Oklahoma

Contact: Rober Anex

Phone: (405) 325-2299

Email: rpanex@ou.edu

Website: www.ou.edu

Future Car Congress

June 27-30

Washington, DC

Contact: Jennifer Sandoval

Email: info@fcc.org

Website: www.futurecarcongress.org

ACE Annual Meeting & Ethanol Conference

July 30-August 1

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Contact: American Coalition for Ethanol

Website: www.ethanol.org/conference.htm