

Clean Cities Coordinator Awards

Coordinator of the Year

Rick Ruvolo, San Francisco Clean Cities Coalition (San Francisco, California)

Rick Ruvolo has a clear vision for alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). He co-founded the San Francisco Clean Cities Coalition and has served as its chairperson for 10 years. Before that he organized San Francisco's Clean Air Vehicle Coalition.

Rick helped develop (and pass) an ordinance that requires local government fleets to purchase AFVs and run them on alternative fuels. San Francisco's municipal fleet has more than 700 light-duty AFVs, and its mass transit fleet is more than 57% zero emission vehicles. Ruvolo's team produced the popular Vehicle Purchasing Guide, which helps fleets choose and acquire AFVs and provides a model for other U.S. cities to develop their own AFV programs. He received about \$1.3 million in grant funding from the California Air Resources Board, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the San Francisco Transportation Authority for zero emission vehicle purchase incentives, emission reduction, and conversion of refuse hauler fleets to liquefied natural gas.

Rick is always busy with the media and the stakeholders. He hosted the 2003 Michelin Challenge Bibendum, which was covered by more than 200 foreign and domestic media reporters. And he announced the City of San Francisco and American Honda agreement for a two-year lease of two Honda FCX vehicles for use in city fleets. He also cosponsored a workshop and Ride-n-Drive on fuel cell vehicles with the California Fuel Cell Partnership.

Rick has also taken the time to lend his expertise and educate leaders in Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, and Mexico on how to implement their own clean air programs. He says, "I'm really proud of our local accomplishments, but when I saw opportunities to share our vision with people in other states and overseas, I wanted to help them avoid the mistakes we have made."



Rick Ruvolo accepts the Coordinator of the Year award at the 2004 Clean Cities Conference in Ft. Lauderdale.

Atlanta Region

Anne Tazewell, Triangle Clean Cities Coalition (Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina)

Anne worked to obtain grant funding for the incremental cost of biodiesel fuel in North Carolina. She initiated a Tiger Teams project to draft alternative fuels legislation (still pending in the General Assembly) that will provide funding to establish rebates for AFVs. Her coalition had a 121% increase in AFVs from 2002 to 2003, including more than 800 vehicles that now use biodiesel. The first commercial B20 station in North Carolina opened in 2003. Anne serves on the board of National Clean Cities Inc.

Boston Region

Lee Grannis, Greater New Haven Clean Cities Coalition (New Haven, Connecticut)

Lee was instrumental in securing funding and developing New Haven's downtown electric trolley program. He has provided technical assistance to many coalitions to develop the electric bus programs. The coalition is looking to build on this success by deploying hybrid electric or fuel cell buses in the area. Lee also helped establish the first E85 (85% ethanol/15% gasoline) fueling station in New England, and works with the school district to encourage biodiesel use in school buses.



Chicago Region

Sam Spofforth, Central Ohio Clean Cities Coalition
(Columbus, Ohio)

Sam is a leader in the Clean Cities community. He is an innovative thinker who has worked to develop strong relationships with business, government, and education. Thanks to his outreach efforts, Ohio State University began using B20 in some campus buses. He helped Royalty Enterprises Inc. secure U.S. Department of Energy Special Projects funding to acquire two heavy-duty compressed natural gas (CNG) trucks and develop a public access CNG fueling station, from which he will collect a royalty payment from fuel sales. He also worked with McWherter Fuel Depot to establish the first public B20 station in Ohio. He obtained a \$49,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Educational Fund to implement the Clean American Fuels Education Program in middle schools and high schools.

Dallas Region

Yvonne Anderson, Central Oklahoma Clean Cities Coalition
(Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Yvonne has spearheaded significant public outreach efforts and media coverage, including workshops, special events, an education program for 4,500 students, and an alternative fuels exhibit that drew more than 25,000 attendees. She was instrumental in opening one private and two public E85 stations. She initiated and ushered through legislation that requires all state flexible-fuel vehicles to operate on E85 when the fuel is comparably priced with gasoline and the fueling station is within a five-mile radius. Yvonne addressed legislative committees, secured a bill sponsor and cosponsor, and worked with a legislative researcher to draft language for the bill.

Denver Region

Benjamin Watson, Kansas City Regional Clean Cities Coalition (Kansas and Missouri)

Benjamin is a Clean Cities champion at all levels. His coalition boasted 7,517 AFVs in 2003, and 11 new E85

stations. Benjamin's political savvy has enabled him to successfully gain the ear of and engage local politicians to support alternative fuels incentives. His successful outreach and educational efforts also extend to small town citizens, corporate executives, and legislators. Benjamin's "think outside the box" attitude and actions have garnered his coalition much success.

Philadelphia Region

Nic van Vuuren, Hampton Roads Clean Cities Coalition
(Norfolk, Virginia)

Nic walks the talk when it comes to alternative fuels and vehicles. He is an enthusiastic and tireless national proponent of all Clean Cities does. His efforts with municipal fleets encouraged the County Board of Supervisors to issue a resolution that calls for recommendations to reduce petroleum use 20% by 2010. He worked with the state fleet, and gained its commitment to refuel the state's bi-fuel vehicles with CNG. He helped two federal fleets with the installation of three E85 fueling sites. With his assistance, the city transit fleet received funds to help purchase CNG buses and infrastructure in 2006. And his many successes with school bus fleets include deploying CNG buses and biodiesel demonstration projects.

Seattle Region

Linda Graham, Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition
(Seattle, Washington)

Linda is an achiever in all aspects of sustaining a successful Clean Cities coalition. Her coalition boasted more than 3,500 AFVs in 2003, a 42% increase from the previous year. Under her stewardship, ten fleets have committed to 100% AFV use. She has worked with the legislature and with several groups to draft bills that increase alternative fuel and vehicle use. Linda's tenacity in writing and seeing these bills through the legislative process has earned her kudos from her stakeholders. Her coalition has received significant media attention—more than 50 articles appeared in the local and national media last year.

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