



CLEAN AIR QUARTERLY

Spring Wrap Up 2009

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Nissan's Smyrna Plant Receives DOE Loan for Electric Vehicles



Pictured above: concept fleet vehicle. Photo courtesy of Nissan North America web site

Recently, the Obama Administration announced \$8 billion in conditional loan commitments for the development of innovative, advanced vehicle technologies that will create thousands of green jobs while helping reduce the nation's dangerous dependence on foreign oil. The loans include \$1.6 billion to Nissan North America, Inc. to retool its Smyrna factory to build advanced electric automobiles and to build an advanced battery manufacturing facility. Ford Motor Company, and Tesla Motors will receive funding as well.

These are the first conditional loan commitments reached as part of the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing program. The Department plans to make additional loans under this program over the next several months to large and small auto manufacturers and parts suppliers up and down the production chain.

"We have an historic opportunity to help ensure that the next generation of fuel-efficient cars and trucks are made in America," said President Obama.

(continued on page 4)

Scientists Urge World Leaders to Reduce GHG Emissions

The Interacademy Panel representing the academies of science in 70 countries recently released a statement urging world leaders to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by at least 50 percent by 2050 in order to "avoid substantial damage to ocean ecosystems."

According to the statement, oceans have to date absorbed one quarter of the CO2 produced from human activities, increasing the acidity of oceans and weakening the ability of some marine animals to produce their skeletons, shells and hard structures.

The statement notes that ocean acidification is irreversible "during our lifetimes and those of many generations to com." In particular, the report states that any new climate treaty must recognize "the direct threats posed by increasing atmospheric CO2 emissions to the oceans and therefore society, and take action to mitigate this threat."

You can find this article and more on the CAP Blog (<http://cleanairmiddletn.wordpress.com>).

For further information, visit The Interacademy Panel at <http://interacademies.net>.

Inside This Edition

Lunch and Learn	Page 2
Plus Side Nashville	Page 2
Dangers of PM	Page 2
Real People Chronicles	Page 3
Southside Elementary	Page 4
Good Search.com	Page 4
Upcoming Events	Page 4

CAP Talks Air Quality on Plus Side Nashville

CAP Program Administrator Becky Taylor recently appeared on NewsChannel 5's The Plus Side of Nashville with host Tuwanda Coleman to discuss Middle Tennessee's air quality and what steps we can take to improve it.



CAP Program Administrator Becky Taylor with Plus Side Nashville host Tuwanda Coleman

The episode will be rerun on Channel 5+ on July 15 at 1:00 p.m.; July 18 at 4:00 a.m., 6:00 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.; and July 19 at 4:00 a.m., 6:00 a.m., 2:30 a.m., and 7:00 p.m. You can also watch the show **online here**.

Lunch and Learn Series Success

Make plans now to attend the remaining sessions of the quarterly lunch and learn series organized jointly by CAP of Middle Tennessee and CAP of Williamson County. The first two sessions were very successful with the latest one nearly full.

The events are open to our partners, their employees, and the general public at no cost, but space is limited so registration is required. For more information e-mail Becky Taylor, CAP program administrator, at **becky@cleanairpartnership.info**.

Nearly 40 people attended the event to learn how to motivate employees to go green.



Two New Studies Reaffirm Dangers PM Poses to Human Health

The Health Effects Institute (HEI) released an updated analysis of the American Cancer Society (ACS) study of mortality in adults and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}); the analysis reaffirms and elaborates on the findings of the original study.

According to HEI, the additional follow-up years and methodological developments “have confirmed with remarkable consistency the association of mortality and exposure to PM_{2.5} reported in previous studies of the ACS data starting 15 years ago.” The study provides further evidence that ischemic heart disease is a cause of death particularly affected by exposure to PM_{2.5}.

Dr. Anthony Zanobetti and Dr. Joel Schwartz of Harvard's School of Public Health released a separate study examining the human health impacts of exposure to PM_{2.5} and coarse PM (particles larger than PM_{2.5} but smaller than PM₁₀).

Zanobetti and Schwartz used data from 112 cities over the period of 1999 to 2005 and show higher

risks for coarse PM than previously observed, as well as confirming an increased risk of mortality for all and specific causes associated with PM_{2.5}.

The ACS study also includes an analysis focusing on the effects of PM_{2.5} exposure on mortality in two highly urbanized areas, New York City and Los Angeles. In Los Angeles, the researchers found a strong positive and significant association between PM_{2.5} exposure and death from chronic pulmonary disease, as well as a link between exposure and death from other causes, but in New York results were inconclusive, except for an association between exposure and death from ischemic heart disease. The researchers theorized that this was due in part to the low variability in PM_{2.5} exposure levels across the New York City region.

For more information visit these sites: **pubs.healtheffects.org/view.php?id=309** and **www.ehponline.org/docs/2009/0800108/abstract.html**

REAL PEOPLE CHRONICLES

Dedicated to sharing successes of average people trying to make a difference.

Take a few minutes to read the story of one woman's journey to live a greener life. Maybe you'll find some inspiration to make some simple changes in your life as well.

Living a Greener Life

By Barbara Mathieson

What did air smell like 500 years ago? I have often wanted to travel back in time before the Industrial Revolution just to smell the air. Would I have had allergies then? Would I wonder what I was breathing? If I hiked by a stream, would I be able to drink freely without fear of pollution?

Protecting the environment has always been my lifestyle, but only in the 21st century did I become an advocate to others about Planet Earth.

In 2002, I became a docent at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere to educate the public about animals and to encourage wildlife conservation. Later, I joined several environmental groups in the area.

Since my husband John and I live in an outlying area of Bellevue, which is home to lots of wildlife, we asked one of the local TV stations to do a report about the used mattresses and tires that line the Harpeth River.

Later, I started a blog called "The Earth Is Not a Trash Can" (<http://planettrash.wordpress.com>) about the litter in our area of Davidson County.

Although I always recycled and reused, the blog changed my behavior. We continue to recycle, but now place an emphasis on reducing what we purchase. We stopped subscribing to the daily newspaper and to most magazines, choosing to read news online. We stopped using paper towels, Kleenex and paper napkins. I bought a bag of industrial cotton towels to use for these purposes.

I had developed a bottled water habit often buying cases of plastic bottles at a time. I quit cold turkey and now use reusable aluminum and safe plastic bottles filled with filtered tap water. Did you know that tap water kills frogs? I learned that through my time as a volunteer at the zoo.

I took dinnerware and flatware to use at the office as I often brought my lunch. I'm disgusted if I have to use Styrofoam.

In 2007 when the price of gasoline skyrocketed, I rode the bus and switched to a more fuel-efficient car. I try to combine trips. You see, I remember the first gas crisis of the 70s.

John and I usually have less than half a bag of trash each week. We compost, or at least, I try to compost. Year two is definitely more productive than year one of composting.

We subscribed to a CSA (community supported agriculture) last year and ate organic vegetables from April to November 2008, but could not do that this year because we are both unemployed. We eat a diet based on beans, oatmeal and rice with fruits and vegetables. We became mostly vegetarian three years ago. After seeing the movie, Food Inc., we buy only organic dairy products and I try to purchase items produced closest to our home.

Since I lost my job in November 2008 as a director of print production at a local publisher, I am looking to find a more eco-friendly job. Yes, I felt guilty about all those trees that made the paper for the magazines we published.

I am doing my best to heal the world for those who walk behind me.

Barbara Mathieson once worked in the publishing industry in print production. Downsized during the economic meltdown of 2008, she does independent contract work. She is a writer, a wit, and a self-proclaimed treehugger.

Southside Elementary Earns Green Flag



Picture courtesy of The Tennessean

CAP would like to congratulate Southside Elementary School in Lebanon, Tenn., for earning their Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership (TP3) Green Flag in recognition of environmental efforts and improvements.

CAP recently visited Southside to talk to their K-8 students about air quality alerts, ozone and particulate matter and what they can do to improve our air.

For information about scheduling a CAP presentation at your school, please contact Becky Taylor, CAP program administrator, via e-mail at becky@cleanairpartnership.info.

Nissan continued

These commitments will help reduce the 140 billion gallons of gasoline Americans consume each year, lessening the nation's dependence on the volatile world market for oil, and decreasing the cause of a fifth of the nation's carbon emissions.

The Obama Administration recently announced an agreement to raise passenger car fuel standards from 27.5 miles per gallon to a target of 35 miles per gallon (mpg) by 2016.

Nissan will receive \$1.6 billion to produce electric cars and battery packs at its manufacturing complex in Smyrna, Tenn. The loan will aid in the construction of a new battery plant and modifications to the existing assembly facility.

Nissan will offer electric vehicles to fleet and retail customers, and plans to ramp up production capacity in Smyrna up to 150,000 vehicles annually, which could result in up to 1,300 jobs in Smyrna.

Help CAP By Searching the Web



What if the Clean Air Partnership earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage

of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com, a new Yahoo-powered search engine, donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine.

CAP will also receive a donation when you shop online using **GoodShop.com**, a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause -- us!

Just be sure to enter Clean Air Partnership as the charity you want to support.

Upcoming Events

Good Food Film Festival - Good Food Shorts: July 23 @ Warner Parks Nature Center

CAP Lunch & Learn - Recycling Facts & Options: September 15 @ TBA

CAP Lunch & Learn - Reducing Energy Consumption: December 8 @ TBA