



Clean Fuel Newsletter

October 2015

www.CleanFuelPartnership.org

Upcoming Events

[Click Here for Upcoming Webinars](#)

EV Transportation and Technology Summit

October 20-22, 2015

Cocoa, Florida

www.evsummit.org

2015 Energy Summit:

October 21, 2015

Baton Rouge, LA

[www.enrg.lsu.edu/Conferences/
energysummit2015/agenda.html](http://www.enrg.lsu.edu/Conferences/energysummit2015/agenda.html)

17th Railroad Environmental Conference

October 27-28, 2015

Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

[railtec.illinois.edu/RREC/
conf_contact.php](http://railtec.illinois.edu/RREC/conf_contact.php)

High Horsepower Summit

October 27-29, 2015

Dallas, Texas

www.hpsummit.com

Louisiana Smart Growth Summit

November 3-4, 2015

Baton Rouge, LA

summit.cpex.org/

[New Clean Cities
Publications Available!](#)

Plugged In: The Port of New Orleans Races Ahead in Environmental Sustainability, (Contributed By Jennifer Gibson Schecter): In July, the Port of New Orleans launched the first public fleet of Nissan Leaf all-electric vehicles in the state of Louisiana. This innovative move is a result of the Port's efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses and air pollutants. [Read More](#)



EVs on the Rise: All-Electric Vehicles 101: During 2014, the number of registered plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) surpassed a quarter million, with over 8,500 publicly available charging stations. Learn more about all electric vehicles and how they can benefit your fleet's operations. [Read More](#)



Clean Cities Technical Response Service (TRS): Changes to Alternative Fuel Excise Tax: Beginning January 2016, propane and liquefied natural gas used in vehicles will be taxed on an energy equivalent basis rather than a volumetric basis, similarly to compressed natural gas (CNG). [Read More](#)



National Recognition for SLCFP Fleets

On September 2, 2015, the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership received the **Most Improved – Biodiesel/Renewable Diesel** award at the US Dept. of Energy Clean Cities National Training Workshop held at Argonne National Laboratory. SLCFP fleets using biodiesel/renewable diesel in their operations include Wood Resources, New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA), Jefferson Parish Transit (JeT), and UPS. Together, they used **over 580,000 gallons of biodiesel/renewable diesel** in their operations in 2014. Congratulations to our biodiesel/ renewable diesel fleets for this great accomplishment!



SLCFP Intern Courtney Young and Director
Rebecca Otte with the award presented by USDOE



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Plugged In: The Port of New Orleans Races Ahead in Environmental Sustainability



Photo by Tracie Morris Schaefer

One of the Port of New Orleans' new, all-electric Nissan Leafs charges on site.

Content provided by Jennifer Gibson Schecter and initially published in the article *Plugged In: The Port of New Orleans Races Ahead in Environmental Sustainability*, for the Port of New Orleans' [Port Record magazine](#)

The Port of New Orleans reignited its commitment to environmentally sustainable practices two years ago. In that brief time, major goals have been accomplished and two recent successes show it's on a winning streak. In July the Port of New Orleans launched the first public fleet of Nissan Leaf electric vehicles in the state of Louisiana. This innovative move is a result of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses and air pollutants.

The Nissan Leaf car is 100% electric and has zero tailpipe emissions. It averages 100 miles of travel for each full charge. Nissan donated two charging stations to the Port, which were installed in the fleet parking lot. The two vehicles serve Port employees who travel the wharfs, canal and metro New Orleans on Port business, and replaced older vehicles with clean, zero tailpipe emission transportation. Specially branded detailing was added to the cars to highlight their features.

The Port held a special training for employees who access the motor pool to acquaint them with the special features of the electric cars. They were shown not only how to operate the vehicles, but also how to put them on and off the charging stations.

"Adding the two electric cars to the Port fleet of vehicles is a big gain for us toward our clean air strategy," says Ryan Bylsma, Port Manager of Facility Services. "We're grateful for the leadership and support of the Board of Commissioners, Nissan, the Regional Planning Commission [the host agency for the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership], and all Port staff involved in procuring the vehicles."

The Port will be leasing the cars for four years through its capital equipment budget. At the end of the lease term, the Port plans to replace the cars with newer models. Additionally, there are plans to eventually replace two conventional sedans currently in the Port's fleet with hybrid model vehicles, furthering the work of the clean air strategy. As part of the clean air strategy, the Port is also developing a clean fleet policy to guide purchasing into the future, and an anti-idling policy to limit unnecessary engine idling and emissions.

The electric car initiative is part of the broader effort that led to the Port accomplishing yet another tangible environmental success. This past May, Green Marine, a voluntary environmental certification program for the North American maritime industry, awarded the Port of New Orleans with its official certification as a Green Port. Endorsed by the American Association of Port



Photo by Tracie Morris Schaefer



Authorities, Green Marine’s process is rigorous and transparent including third-party verification and participants are expected to continuously reduce their environmental footprint. The Port of New Orleans is the 8th U.S. port to join the voluntary environmental certification program.

“Green Marine provided us with an action plan to help the Port reach the high environmental standards we set for ourselves,” said Gary LaGrange, Port President and CEO. “While we are proud of the certification, we will continue to work diligently to be a more environmentally friendly organization.”

“The evaluation process is really thorough and helped us identify areas where we were already finding success, and other areas where we could improve through new policies and programs to move the Port forward,” says Amelia Pellegrin, Port Environmental Services Manager.

The Port attended the Certification Ceremony on May 28 in Seattle at the annual GreenTech conference to receive the official certification.

Catherine Dunn, Director of Port Development who oversees all environmental initiatives, says, “Attaining the Green Marine certification is a critical step in building toward international standards for environmental management. We are recognized as leaders in cargo and cruise operations and we will continue to make strides with our environmental programs.”

“The Port of New Orleans will continue to invest in reducing our environmental impact and increasing awareness,” says LaGrange. “Working alongside our industry and community partners, we look forward to many more successes to come.”



The 2015 Nissan Leaf has a combined fuel economy of 114 MPGe (miles per gasoline gallon equivalent).



Port Record: Official Magazine of the Port of New Orleans

This story was originally published in the [Port Record: Official Magazine of the Port of New Orleans, Summer 2015 Edition.](#)
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For more information on the Port of New Orleans Environmental Program please visit:
portno.com/EnvironmentHome.



EVs on the Rise: All-Electric Vehicles 101

During 2014, the number of registered plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) surpassed a quarter million. EVs are being supported by a continuously growing network of publicly available charging stations that now exceeds 8,500. The number of “DC fast charge” stations is rising, allowing for shorter charging times and increasing vehicle utility. Interest in all-electric vehicles for both the public and for fleets continues to rise. All-electric vehicles can significantly reduce fuel and operating costs for fleets, especially those in urban metro areas. Propelled by an electric motor powered by rechargeable battery packs which are charged by plugging them into an off-board electrical power source, all-electric vehicles can also be charged in part through regenerative braking, which generates electricity from some of the energy normally lost when braking, increasing the life of brake pads and the range of the vehicle.



Benefits

EVs have several advantages over vehicles with traditional internal combustion engines (ICEs):

- **Reduced fuel costs:** According to FuelEconomy.gov, the estimated annual fuel cost for an all-electric Nissan Leaf is \$500 less than a comparable gasoline-powered Nissan Sentra. The fuel savings increase for vehicles operating in urban settings where vehicles can take advantage of regenerative braking as well as fuel economy features when the vehicle is stopped. Additional savings can be realized by fleets that right-size their vehicles – using smaller, more efficient vehicles when transporting people when there isn’t a need for a large cargo space.
- **Reduced maintenance costs:** No internal combustion motor means no oil changes, fuel filters, spark plugs, oil filters, radiator, exhaust system, timing belt, injectors or other gasoline-specific components to maintain. In addition, brake pads last longer with regenerative braking.
- **Energy efficient:** Electric vehicles convert about 59%–62% of the electrical energy from the grid to power at the wheels—conventional gasoline vehicles only convert about 17%–21% of the energy stored in gasoline to power at the wheels.
- **Environmentally friendly:** EVs emit no tailpipe pollutants.
- **Performance benefits:** Electric motors provide quiet, smooth operation and stronger acceleration.

Tax Credits

Fleets operating vehicles in Louisiana may be eligible to claim tax credits to reduce the cost of a new electric vehicle. Contact your tax advisor, Louisiana Dept. of Revenue’s Policy Services Division [(225) 219-2780 or PracCIFTPolicyInquiries@LA.gov], or the IRS (www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Law-Questions) to confirm eligibility and amount of the credit for specific vehicles.

- **Federal [Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicle Tax Credit](#):**
 - Up to \$7,500, based on vehicle's traction battery capacity and gross vehicle weight rating.
 - Applies to vehicles acquired after December 31, 2009.
- **Louisiana Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) and Fueling Infrastructure Tax Credit**
 - Vehicles must be dedicated AFVs and registered in Louisiana.
 - This credit is currently being updated per the 2015 Louisiana Legislative Session; Contact the Louisiana Dept. of Revenue for information.

Updated and additional information on applicable laws and incentives can be found on the US Dept. of Energy’s Alternative Fuel Data Center, [Laws and Incentives](#) page.



Available Models

The highway capable, all-electric vehicle models shown below are those commonly available in the Louisiana market. The fuel economy [shown in Miles per Gasoline Gallon Equivalent (MPGGEs)] and driving range information provided by [US Dept. of Energy's Clean Cities 2015 Vehicle Buyer's Guide](#). Additional EV models are included on [FuelEconomy.gov](#) which offers a [side-by-side comparison](#) of fuel efficiency and emissions to traditional vehicles.



Vehicle: 2015 Chevrolet Spark EV

Fuel Economy City/Hwy: 128/109 MPGGEs

Driving Range: 82 miles



Vehicle: 2015 Nissan Leaf

Fuel Economy City/Hwy: 126/101 MPGGEs

Driving Range: 84 miles



Vehicle: 2015 Ford Focus Electric

Fuel Economy City/Hwy: 110/99 MPGGEs

Driving Range: 76 miles



Vehicle: 2015 Fiat 500e

Fuel Economy City/Hwy: 122/108 MPGGEs

Driving Range: 87 miles



Vehicle: 2015 Volkswagen e-Golf

Fuel Economy City/Hwy: 125/105 MPGGEs

Driving Range: 85 miles



Vehicle: 2015 Kia Soul Electric

Fuel Economy City/Hwy: 120/92 MPGGEs

Driving Range: 93 miles

For more information on All-Electric Vehicles, visit the following sources:

- FuelEconomy.gov (a resource by EPA and USDOE) All-Electric Vehicles page: www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/evtech.shtml
- US Dept. of Energy's Alternative Fuel Data Center, Electricity Section: www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity.html



Upcoming Changes to Alternative Fuel Excise Tax

Motor fuel taxes vary widely between jurisdictions and across fuel types. This is largely because federal and some state highway excise taxes are based on volume, not on energy content, resulting in significant tax inequity among fuels. Recently, the U.S. Congress passed, and President Obama signed, legislation that adjusts the federal excise tax on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and propane used in vehicles. **These changes will be effective January 1, 2016.**



The summary table below details the upcoming alternative fuel excise tax changes to help fleets understand the implications of this legislation. The legislative change only applies to LNG and propane. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) information is provided for reference.

Summary of Current and Adjusted Excise Tax Rates

Fuel Type	Current Excise Tax Rate (through Dec. 31, 2015)		New Tax Rate (effective Jan. 1, 2016)
	Per Gallon	Per 100,000 BTUs	Per gallon
Gasoline	18.4¢	16.0¢	18.4¢
Diesel	24.4¢	18.9¢	24.4¢
Propane (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)	18.3¢	21.9¢	18.3¢ per GGE
LNG	24.3¢	32.5¢	24.3¢ per DGE
CNG	18.3¢ per GGE	16.0¢	18.3¢ per GGE

*GGE: gasoline gallon equivalent / *DGE: diesel gallon equivalent

Resources for additional information on motor fuel taxes:

- Alternative Fuels Data Center's Laws and Incentives website: www.afdc.energy.gov/laws
 - Specific to this legislative change: www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/11220.
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory's A Primer on Motor Fuel Excise Taxes and the Role of Alternative Fuels and Energy Efficient Vehicles: www.nrel.gov/docs/fy15osti/60975.pdf.
- For the full text of Public Law 114-41, enacted July 31, 2015, see Congress.gov: www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3236/text.

Information provided by:
Clean Cities Technical Response Service Team
technicalresponse@icfi.com
800-254-6735



New Clean Cities Publications Available

Please Note: Publication notices are provided for informational purposes only. Neither the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership nor the Regional Planning Commission is responsible for the information presented in the announcements, webinars, conferences or publications themselves. Please contact hosts for additional information on specific publications.

[Latest Edition of Clean Cities Now!](#)



[Clean Cities Now](#) is the official biannual newsletter of Clean Cities, a U.S. Department of Energy initiative designed to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative and renewable fuels, fuel economy improvements, idle-reduction measures, and new technologies, as they emerge. The [Clean Cities Now Summer 2015 Issue](#) includes articles on:

- Biodiesel Scores Big with Fleets Nationwide
- Fleet Experiences: H&S Bakery Makes the Switch to Propane
- California Coordinator Educates Dealers about Plugging in to PEVs
- The Renewable Fuel Standard: How it Works and What it Means to You

[US Dept. of Energy Clean Cities Strategic Planning 2015 Meeting](#)

On Feb. 25, 2015, the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) hosted a public meeting to collect feedback from various clean transportation stakeholders to develop a new five-year strategic plan for the [Clean Cities Program](#). A broad range of program stakeholders in industry and local, state, and federal government agencies contributed their insights and perspectives on how to best advance deployment of alternative fuels, advanced vehicles, and other technologies in the Clean Cities portfolio. The meeting covered various Clean Cities focus areas, such as alternative fuels and vehicles, idle reduction technologies, and fuel economy measures. National laboratory experts also led discussions about the current state of natural gas, biofuels, propane, plug-in electric vehicles, fuel economy measures, and consumer and fleet idle reduction. The [summary report](#) from the meeting is now available including a summary of priority recommendations and an overview of each fuel/ technology breakout session with information on top market opportunities.

To view presentations featured at the workshop and related briefing papers, please visit USDOE's Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy website:

www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/2015_strategic_planning.html

