



## Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities Coalition Summer Newsletter 2010

### GLACC Welcomes New Member *MSU Federal Credit Union*

#### In this Issue:

*GLACC Clean Transportation Awareness Campaign in Full Swing* ..... 2

*Welcome New Team Member*..... 2

*GLACC GETS Involved with Green Energy Technology in the City* ..... 3

*Clear the Air for School Kids* ..... 4

*An Ugly Reminder: Gulf Oil Spill and Petroleum Dependence* ..... 5

*Capital Region Community Foundation Grant* ..... 6

*GLACC Policy Corner* ..... 6

**G** LACC is pleased to welcome new member, Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSU FCU) to our coalition. MSU FCU's Headquarters is LEED certified and through this certification, has focused on reducing their carbon footprint and on educating their members on how they can also participate in greening their lifestyles. GLACC looks forward to helping MSU FCU and its members reduce their petroleum dependence.



organizations. Owned and operated by its members, the mission of MSU FCU is to provide superior service while assisting members and employees to achieve financial security, their goals, and ultimately, their dreams.

MSU FCU is one of the region's most recognizable and community-supportive

### U.S. Recovery Act Goes Local *Greening Capital Area School Fleets*

**G** LACC and project partners Dean Transportation and Grand Ledge Public Schools are in the final stretch of a clean school bus project funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. When the project ends September 30 2010, nearly 300 school buses will have been made cleaner - either by installing emissions reduction equipment or replacing buses outright.

GLACC, Dean Transportation, and Grand Ledge Public Schools will replace older, less efficient and higher emitting buses with cleaner, more efficient buses. Six Grand Ledge Public School buses will be replaced with buses that reduce nitrogen oxide and particulate matter pollution. *(Continued on page 4)*



## GLACC Clean Transportation Awareness Campaigns in Full Swing

This year GLACC has been issuing educational e-mail campaigns focusing on petroleum reduction, idle reduction, and advanced vehicle technologies. This month GLACC will bring the second installment of our *Clean Transportation Awareness* campaigns to a close.

GLACC began the first campaign in January, detailing the ins and outs of petroleum reduction and was picked up by the nationally syndicated Alternative Fuels and Vehicles (AFVi) Newsletter. Our second series focused on idle reduction, taking an in-depth look at the economic and environmental impacts of idle reduction and what drivers can do to reduce their own idling habits.

Our final installment of the *Clean Transportation Awareness* campaigns will run through September 2010 and will focus on advanced vehicle technologies that help drivers reduce their dependence on petroleum.

Email [contact@michigancleancities.org](mailto:contact@michigancleancities.org) to sign up to receive the campaigns in your in box!



**Cutting Petroleum Dependence, Reducing Idling: School Buses Make a Big Impact**

In this second issue of Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities' Clean Transportation Awareness Campaign, we'll explore the role school buses play in petroleum reduction and air quality through idle reduction policies.

GLACC's Clear the Air for Schoolkids program helps school districts take action to reduce fuel use and emissions from buses and on school property.

Core to Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities' mission is an effort to reduce mid-Michigan's petroleum consumption. Our aim is to decrease petroleum dependence and improve air quality at a local level. We promote alternative fuel and vehicle usage, and fuel economy practices. A big benefit to reducing petroleum consumption is the opportunity to reduce air pollution that results from using petroleum fuels. Engine idle reduction is an easy method for reducing both petroleum consumption and air pollution.

**Learn More**

What is engine idling? Engine idling is simply the act of running a vehicle's engine when the vehicle is not in motion, but parked in one place. Many of us are guilty of unnecessary engine idling, and may have not yet realized that reducing idle time saves fuel, engine wear, and money while reducing emissions and noise. Idle reduction is typically used to describe technologies and practices that reduce the amount of time vehicles idle their engines.

Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities

Join us on Facebook!

Follow us on Twitter!

## Welcome New Team Member!

This summer we are pleased to introduce Amanda Hartmann to the GLACC team. As program assistant, Amanda works on programs that get clean fuels and vehicles on the road in Michigan's capital region. She is participating in 2010 outreach efforts, collaborating with environmental campus groups to spread GLACC's message at local colleges, and conducting the annual petroleum reduction survey.

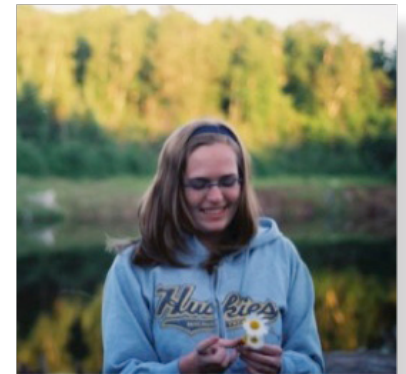
Amanda is also helping plan the upcoming October 2010 Odyssey Day at Lansing Community College and participating in meetings to further develop Michigan's electric vehicle infrastructure.

Amanda grew up in southeastern Michigan and received her degree in environmental engineering

from Michigan Technological University in 2010.

She has spent two years doing research & development on sustainable pavement and has also worked for the National Park Service in Alaska.

Amanda's position is funded through mid-August by the U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Internship Program. GLACC is thrilled to have Amanda working with us.



## GLACC GETS Involved with Green Energy Technology in the City Program

**T**eagan and Shontalice count the cars passing through an intersection as Kiara keeps track of the time and Jessica records the data in an experiment to see how much carbon dioxide is emitted from vehicles. They are on Michigan State University's campus as part of the Green Energy Technology in the City (GET City) program, a collaboration between Michigan Energy Options and the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing.

GLACC Program Assistant Amanda Hartmann was the guest speaker at the GET City program on June 22 and organized this activity with Becky Jo Farrington of Michigan Energy Options. The group was shocked to find between 10 and 20 cars pass through MSU intersections every minute. This congestion highlights Michigan's need for alternative fuels and cleaner transportation options to reduce emissions.

During the presentation, the GET City kids learned about GLACC's goals and the role it plays in reducing Michigan's petroleum dependence. They were particularly interested in getting a close up look at the soot particles in diesel emissions, and learning about Clear the Air for Schoolkids - a program aimed at reducing school bus engine-idling. Learn more about the GET City program on their website [www.getcity.org](http://www.getcity.org)



*From Left to Right: Shontalice, Jessica, Kiara, and Teagan*

## Become a Clean Cities Member Today!

Join Your Regional Clean Cities Coalition – As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program, Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities (GLACC) facilitates connections and promotes local efforts to advance alternative fuels and vehicles usage. Members include public and private fleets, corporations, nonprofit organizations, governments, utilities, and others with an interest in pursuing the latest in clean transportation technology.

[www.michigancleancities.org](http://www.michigancleancities.org)



## U.S. Recovery Act Goes Local

### *Greening Capital Area School Fleets (continued from first page)*

Four Dean Transportation buses will be replaced with diesel hybrid-electric buses that use less fuel and reduce emissions. This project also includes the installation of aftermarket diesel emission reduction equipment on nearly 300 Dean Transportation buses.

“GLACC has been excited to manage this project—it meets our mission of improving air quality and reducing petroleum dependence through local actions,” said Program Manager Maggie Striz Calnin. “Grand Ledge Public Schools and Dean Transportation are also better able to meet their own goals of providing safe, convenient transportation to school kids. These cleaner buses will reduce childhood exposure to harmful pollutants and save school fuel budgets.”

Watch for more on this project in the next GLACC Clean Transportation E-Newsletter and on our [website](#) and social media sites, like [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



*GLACC Executive Director, Rachel Kuntzsch talks with excited Grand Ledge Public School students at the GLACC press conference announcing the grant last year.*

## 2010 Clear the Air for Schoolkids Program Get Involved!

**C**apital region school districts can add to their clean transportation efforts through GLACC’s Clear the Air for Schoolkids program. This program provides answers and options for policies and projects that reduce fuel use, allow for alternative fuel use, and reduce vehicle emissions on school grounds.

Find out more at [www.michigancleancities.org](http://www.michigancleancities.org) or contact Program Assistant Amanda Hartmann at 517-925-8649 ext. 13 to set up a meeting with GLACC.



## An Ugly Reminder - Gulf Oil Spill and Petroleum Dependence

**O**n April 22, the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig sank into the Gulf of Mexico. As of this writing, 81 days have passed without a total solution to stop the oil leaking into the Gulf. Since April 22, as reported by [Newsweek.com](http://Newsweek.com), "...more than 200,000 gallons of oil a day have been pouring into the sea...."

The explosion that caused the rig to sink killed eleven people. Serious environmental and economic damage will continue to be a serious challenge from the spill. This situation is a terrible reminder of the high costs, beyond monetary, of U.S. energy demand and dependence on petroleum.



*Anchor-handling tugboats battle the blazing remnants of the off shore oil rig Deepwater Horizon. Photo courtesy of [Ideum](http://Ideum) via flickr creative commons*

As crews work in the Gulf and along the coast to address the spill, there is much that individuals, businesses, governments, and community groups can do every day - right here in the capital region - to move toward petroleum independence. Improving transportation locally can help address the national challenge of petroleum dependence and improve our regional economy, and environmental and public health.

### Walk and bike

Remember walking or biking to school or to the ball field as a child? Walking or biking allows time to daydream, think, reflect - without the distractions of driving. These modes also increase joy - through [sparkling dopamine in the brain](#). If you can't walk or bike to work, how about to your child's school or sporting events? How about to the corner store or friends' houses on the weekend?

### Shut off the engine

Americans "idle" (or run) their vehicles' engines while standing still to the tune of 3.8 million gallons of fuel wasted per day. The average American will [save \\$134 per year](#) by reducing his/her idling by just 5 minutes each day.

### Use public transit

Riding the bus instead of driving allows you time to catch up on reading, return phone calls, or just daydream. Fuel and money are both saved by taking advantage of [public transit systems](#).

### Use alternative fuel

Michigan gasoline already contains 10% ethanol so you've got [a leg up](#) on some other parts of the country. But, does your vehicle take E85 - a higher ethanol/gasoline blend? If it does, using E85 gets you even farther away from petroleum dependence. Diesel vehicles can use biodiesel blends that achieve the same goal. Most major auto manufacturers consider up to a 20% biodiesel/petrodiesel blend acceptable.

### Carpool

Sharing the ride [reduces fuel use and fuel expense](#). Employers can consider providing incentives to encourage employees, like preferred parking for carpoolers.



## Capital Region Community Foundation Grant Awarded to GLACC

**G**LACC's 2010 Clean Transportation Workshop Series is getting a boost with a grant award from Capital Region Community Foundation (CRCF). GLACC's first CRCF grant will support a workshop series that educates and empowers area businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and the public to reduce their petroleum usage.

In March, GLACC held the first event in the 2010 Michigan Clean Transportation Series. This meeting drew together key stakeholders in the region to consider the need and the opportunity for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Michigan's capital region. Kellee Christensen from Lansing Board of

Water & Light provided the feature presentation on a federally-funded Hometown Community Electric Vehicle Project. Lansing Board of Water & Light has made progress on this project in recent months and will formally announce project details in the fall.

Workshops being planned with CRCF support will focus on topics like: the Clear the Air for Schoolkids program (see school bus articles on page 4), greening law enforcement agency fleets, and 'bringing petroleum independence home'.

Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities is grateful for the support of Capital Region Community Foundation. Learn more about CRCF at [www.crcfoundation.org](http://www.crcfoundation.org).

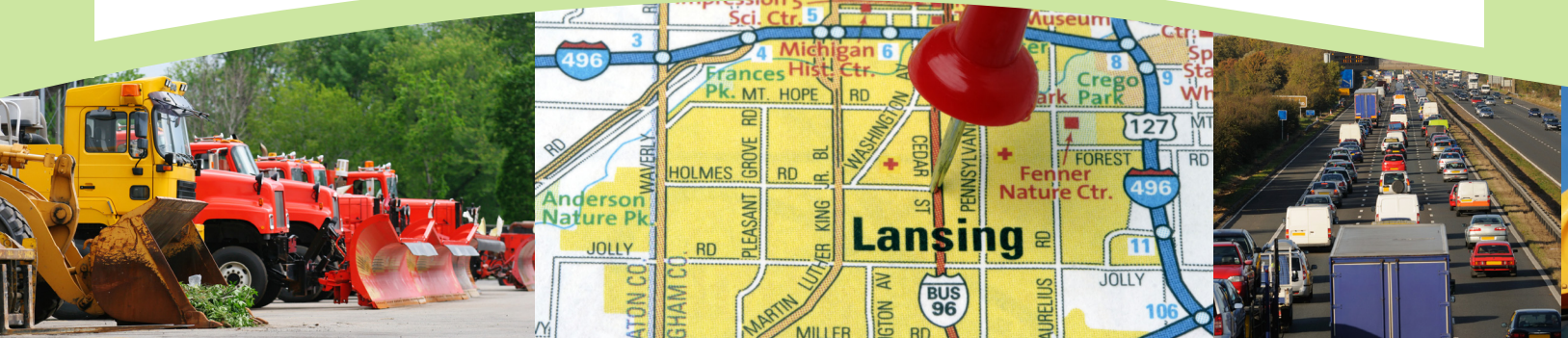
## Policy and Funding Opportunity Corner

**HR 4213**, a tax credit extender bill that allows the **\$0.50 per gallon fuel tax credit** for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) when used as transportation fuel, has not yet been passed by the U.S. Senate. **If passed** this measure would keep this tax credit in place for at least one year. This bill would also extend tax credits for biodiesel fuel use and heavy-duty hybrid vehicles.

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Congressman Gary Peters, both of Michigan, have introduced legislation (S. 2843; H.R. 3246) to provide **funding to help U.S. manufacturers and suppliers develop advanced vehicles**, including medium and heavy-duty commercial trucks. Congressman Peters' bill **was passed by the U.S. House**, but has not yet been passed by the U.S. Senate.

Legislation has been introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives to require the State of Michigan fleet to **incorporate alternative fuel vehicles** at an accelerated pace. **HB 5042** is expected to be substituted based on changes requested by Michigan Department of Management & Budget and other interested parties.

Legislation is expected before the end of the year in the Michigan House and Senate to **reduce diesel vehicle emissions**. This legislation is expected to require that medium and heavy-duty vehicles operating in the State of Michigan limit engine idling and install diesel emission reduction equipment.



## Events

### GLACC Annual Member Meeting

July 29, 2010. 9:30 AM- 11:00 AM  
300 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Not a member? Contact us!  
[contact@michigancleancities.org](mailto:contact@michigancleancities.org)

### Odyssey Day

October 15, 2010, Lansing, MI  
A biennial event dedicated to promoting cleaner choices in transportation- Save the Date!  
[www.nationalafvdayodyssey.org/default.htm](http://www.nationalafvdayodyssey.org/default.htm)

## GLACC Members

### Platinum

Lansing Board of Water and Light

### Gold

Corn Marketing Program of Michigan/  
Michigan Corn Growers Association

Meijer Logistics

### Silver

Dean Transportation

### Bronze

Blodgett Oil

Consumers Energy

Cummins Bridgeway

Michigan Propane Gas Association

Michigan State University

Working Bugs

Kuntzsch Business Services

DTE Energy / MichCon

### Supporters

MSU Federal Credit Union

State of Michigan

CATA Clean Commute Options

Delhi Township

Delta Township

Meridian Township

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

City of East Lansing

### Individuals

David Kuntzsch

Don Walcheski

Rachel Kuntzsch

Margaret Striz Calnin

Jim Pitts

John Auld

Ray Lawrence

## About Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities

*Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities (GLACC) is a coalition of stakeholders working to achieve cleaner air and energy security in mid-Michigan through alternative fuel and vehicle usage, and fuel economy practices. Stakeholders include fleets, corporations, nonprofit organizations, utilities, local governments, and individuals – anyone interested in ways cleaner fuels, vehicles, and practices can improve our air quality and energy security.*



### Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities

300 N. Bridge Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837 | 517.925.8649 | [www.michigancleancities.org](http://www.michigancleancities.org)

