



May 2010

## Iowa Department of Transportation recaps their winter biodiesel usage



One of the Iowa DOT's many diesel vehicles which is fueled with biodiesel blends. May says, "All diesel powered equipment uses biodiesel whenever it is available."

The absence of a biodiesel tax credit hasn't stopped Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) Fleet Manager David May from seeing the benefits biodiesel provides for the State of Iowa.

May believes the use of biodiesel will continue as people start to understand the criticism behind it. May explains, "Many are opposed to fueling their fleets with biodiesel because they believe it gels up easily and is difficult to pump in the winter months. In reality they have to understand that biodiesel with animal fat content does begin to gel up at 50°F. However, soy-based biodiesel performs much better in cold temperatures and that's why I recommend that all Iowa DOT fueling stations purchase soy-based biodiesel."

There are 50 Iowa DOT fueling stations through  
**Iowa DOT** continued on pg. 2

## Biodiesel industry growing frustrated with tax credit delay

It's been about four months since the federal biodiesel tax credit expired at the end of 2009. Congress ran out of time to extend it before its expiration date.

"What this lack of extension has done is effectively shut down the industry and very little trade is taking place in biodiesel," said Randy Olson, executive director of the Iowa Biodiesel Board.

The purpose of the \$1 per gallon credit was to make the price of biodiesel competitive with petroleum-based diesel. People in the biodiesel industry consider it a critical provision that helped the United States reach commercial-scale production.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill last December to extend the one-year credit retroactively, so its benefits would pick up where they left off at Jan. 1. The Senate followed suit in March. Legislators have to agree on a final version, specifically how to pay for it, before it can go into effect.

"The next opportunity for us to get this tax credit is when Congress is in session right now before the Memorial Day recess. We need all biodiesel supporters to contact their elected officials in Washington and ask that they re-instate the biodiesel tax credit," said Olson.

Of Iowa's 15 biodiesel plants, seven are operating at low production rates, six are not producing fuel but are in standby mode and two are closed,

**Tax Credit** continued on pg. 2

## Iowa to host a 2010 Odyssey Day event this fall

The State of Iowa will be part of a national campaign to promote cleaner choices in transportation by hosting one of 125 Odyssey Day events this year.

The focus of 2010's Odyssey Day will be centered on the economic advantages of alternative fuel vehicles and showcasing available alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) options (including refueling locations). The Iowa Clean Cities Coalition is seeking event sponsors. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 15, 2010.

Odyssey Day is a nationwide biennial event sponsored by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC). The event was most recently held at Des Moines Area Community College (Ankeny Campus) in 2008 and gathered over 600 students, educators, OEMs, and government officials from across the state. Sponsors included: the American Lung Association, Des Moines Area Community College, Iowa Clean Cities Coalition, and the Iowa Energy Center.

-Sara Crouse

Source: *DMACC Bulletin* & [www.nationalafvdayodyssey.org](http://www.nationalafvdayodyssey.org)



*DMACC students check out the Van Wall Group's electric vehicle. The one-day event featured alternative fuel vehicle exhibits, educational breakout sessions, and give-a-ways at the door.*



*DMACC student Josh May (left) of DeSoto and Automotive Technology Professor Dan Jespersen take a close look at a Dixie Chopper LP 3000 at the National AFV Odyssey Day 2008.*

## Iowa DOT *continued from pg. 1*

Iowa; half of the stations have below ground tanks while the other half are above ground tanks. The above ground tanks are more prone to experience problems with gelling in the cold Iowa winter months. All fuel, biodiesel included, needs to be blended according to the temperatures that you expect to encounter.

May advises all Iowa DOT fueling stations to purchase soy-based B20 biodiesel for both above and below ground tanks during all but the coldest months of the year. The absence of a biodiesel blender tax credit has slowed the growth of biodiesel within the state and nationally.

The Iowa DOT has indentified \$62,000 for continued biodiesel purchases.

-Sara Crouse

Source: *Interview with DOT Fleet Manager David May*

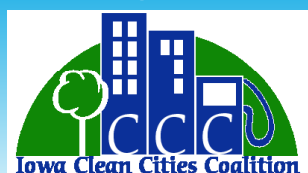
## Tax Credit *continued from pg. 1*

according to the Iowa Biodiesel Board. Eight of the plants were running at some level when the tax credit expired.

In 2009, biodiesel production in the state supported an estimated 2,900 jobs. The state's biodiesel board estimates half or as high as two-thirds of those jobs are gone now.

Source:  
*Heather Thorstensen*  
[www.agrinews.com](http://www.agrinews.com)

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## Chrysler focuses on fuel efficiency, E85 compatibility



*The flex fuel-ready Pentastar V-6 will replace seven current V-6 engines, resulting in flexibility, efficient operations and significant cost savings.*

Chrysler's new flex fuel-ready, V-6 engine is currently being produced, as part of an overhaul to Chrysler's powertrain lineup. Not only will engines be fully flex fuel compatible, fuel efficiency will also increase by 25 percent over the next four years through increased demand for vehicles with the new Pentastar V-6 engine.

The new Pentastar V-6 engine will be available in Chrysler, Ram Truck, Jeep

and Dodge models. The 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee will be the first model to debut the revamped engine, which boasts a 38 percent increase in horsepower, 11 percent increase in torque and 11 percent

Source: [www.motorauthority.com](http://www.motorauthority.com)

## Iowa Clean Cities to receive \$7,000 for summer internship program

The Iowa Clean Cities Coalition (ICCC) is one of 25 pre-selected Clean Cities Coalitions to participate in the summer intern program sponsored by the Argonne National Laboratory.

The purpose of the internship is to provide a current college junior or senior the opportunity to gain valuable research skills on alternative fuel markets in the state of Iowa and also plan and coordinate seminars with stakeholders in the industry. The Iowa Clean Cities Coalition has experience working with interns in the past since its establishment in 2005. The coalition has mentored three interns under the direction of the Coordinator Brian Crowe.

Students will be selected for one of 25 internship opportunities by April 21, 2010 and internships will commence on June 1, 2010. One area of focus for the ICCC intern will be how to connect with flex-fuel vehicle (FFV) owners regarding their options for refueling in the state. A marketing plan was presented to the Iowa Legislature in 2009 to retrofit existing fuel tanks and install new ones carrying E85 in the Des Moines and Davenport areas. The goal is to encourage both public and private FFV owners to purchase E85.

Currently, the ICCC has one intern focusing on communication outreach and social media. ICCC Intern Sara Crouse is a graduate of Simpson College. She says, "The chance to work with another intern at ICCC will multiply our outreach and research efforts and provide a fresh perspective for the organization as it continues its fifth year of establishment."

-Sara Crouse

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## CALENDAR

- Greening the Heartland  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
**May 19-21**
- International Fuel  
Ethanol Workshop & Expo  
America's Center  
St. Louis, Missouri  
**June 14-17**
- RADISH Healthy  
Living Fair  
Iowa Freight House  
Farmer's Market  
Davenport, Iowa  
**June 19**
- World Congress on  
Industrial Biotechnology  
& Bioprocessing  
Gaylord National Resort  
Washington, DC  
**June 27-30**
- 2010 TCS for Biofuels  
and Biobased Products  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa  
**September 21-23**