

First Annual Awards Breakfast Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition

Hollywood, Florida - The Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition (GCCCC) hosted its first Annual Awards Breakfast on Friday, January 21 at the South Florida Regional Planning Council office, recognizing the efforts of its members in the promotion and use of alternative vehicle technologies and alternative fuels. The event was co-sponsored by AmeriGas Propane and featured an alternative fuel vehicle display by Trans Tech Energy. A bi-fuel police Dodge Charger and Ford Transit Connect were on hand for attendees to drive and experience.

The 2011 Awards honored members and stakeholders who have made outstanding contributions to the Coalition's goal of reducing America's dependence on imported oil and improving the environment by creating a sustainable alternative fuel market. Awards were presented in five categories to exceptional Coalition members:

- The Leadership Award was presented to Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition Chair, Patricia Asseff for her dedication and enthusiasm in reaching the goals of the Coalition. For over eight years, City of Hollywood Commissioner Asseff has led the Coalition's efforts to protect the Region's environment and reduce Southeast Florida's dependence on foreign fuels.
- The Champion for Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Alternative Fuels Award was presented to Miami-Dade County for its use of alternative fuel vehicles in its fleets including, 457 hybrid electric vehicles, 38 hybrid transit buses, and six hybrid hydraulic diesel waste collection vehicles.



City of Hollywood Commissioner Patricia Asseff, Coalition Chair, with Dan Martin (L) and Luke Lewis (R) of AmeriGas Propane, Inc.

- These efforts have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 3,500 tons over the past two years.
- Maribel Feliciano, Chair of the Gold Coast Clean Cities Education and Outreach Committee, received the Community Involvement Award for her exemplary commitment to education and outreach in South Florida. Ms. Feliciano developed educational programs, outreach events, and informational materials that supported the Coalition's goals, reaching over 7,600 people.
- The Alternative Fuel Station Award was presented to Wise Gas, Inc. for its great effort to provide an alternative fuel option in South Florida. The company owns and operates the first public access Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) facility in the State of Florida.
- Choice Environmental Services, Inc. received the Alternative Fuel Fleet Award. The refuse company is the first in South Florida to convert a portion of its operations to CNG fuel. It operates a fleet of clean-burning natural gas refuse trucks that reduce harmful emissions by over 25% compared to diesel-fueled trucks.

We congratulate our winners in their efforts to reduce petroleum consumption and promote the use of cleaner fuels!



Diana Mendoza, former Coalition intern, and Broward County's Maribel Feliciano, Community Involvement Award winner

The Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition is one of 90 coalitions around the country who form part of the U.S. Department of Energy's strategy to reduce petroleum consumption. The Coalition strives to promote alternative fuel and advanced vehicle technologies, gain legislative support, develop infrastructure and increase the acquisition and use of alternative fuel vehicles. The efforts are focused on protecting our national economy, national defense and our climate while reducing Americans' petroleum usage and the emission of green house gases.

The next meeting of the Gold Coast Coalition will be on Friday, February 18, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida.

GCCCC is seeking companies, agencies and individuals to join us in our efforts to reduce petroleum consumption. For more information on petroleum-reduction strategies or to become a member of the Clean Cities Program, please visit our website <http://www.floridagoldcoastcleancities.com/> or contact Christine Heshmati, Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition Coordinator, at (954) 985-4416.



Keith Gruetzmacher (TECO Peoples Gas), Mason Ecker (Clean Energy), Ray Peraino (Choice Environmental) with his company's Alternative Fuel Fleet Award, and Howard Harris (Clean Energy)



Christine Slager (L) and Jeff Greene (M) of Wise Gas, Award-winning Alternative Fuel Station, with Coalition Chair Patricia Asseff (R), recipient of the Leadership Award



Cooper City Commissioner Lisa Mallozzi and Greg Ezzell of TransTech Energy with the company's hybrid-fueled Dodge Charger