

Southern Colorado Clean Cities Newsletter



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Colorado Event Calendar](#)

May 2009

*Welcome New
Members*

[The City of Durango](#)

Beginning in 2010, most new diesel-burning vehicles will be outfitted with a pre-exhaust treatment system

While urea has long been used in agriculture as well as in European diesel exhaust fluid (DEF,) it is a new frontier for the U.S. transportation industry. Most 2010 model-year trucks will have new clean exhaust systems known as Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR), and urea/DEF will be required for them to run. Here's your chance to prepare yourself for the upcoming usage of urea/DEF in OPIS' newest FREE white paper:

[Successful Urea/Diesel Exhaust Fluid Handling, Storage & Dispensing.](#)

Colorado Springs Ranks #6

Colorado Springs attracting national attention once again. The city of Colorado Springs ranks as the #6 city on SustainLane.com's "Top Ten Alternative Fueled City Fleets."

[Read More about Colorado Spring and their green fleet.](#)

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President Obama Takes Action to Advance Biofuels Production

President Barack Obama announced that his administration is taking several steps to advance biofuels research and commercialization. The president signed a Presidential Directive to help preserve biofuel industry jobs and to establish the Biofuels Interagency Working Group, which will develop the nation's first comprehensive program for advancing the biofuels market. The president also announced that DOE will release \$786.5 million in Recovery Act funds to accelerate advanced biofuels research, development, and deployment, and that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the federal Renewable Fuels Standard (see separate articles below). The EPA proposal outlines the agency's strategy for increasing the supply of renewable fuels. [View white house press release here.](#)

U.S. Drops Research into Fuel Cells for Cars

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/08/science/earth/08energy.html?hpw>



By [MATTHEW L. WALD](#)

WASHINGTON — Cars powered by hydrogen fuel cells, once hailed by President George W. Bush as a pollution-free solution for reducing the nation's dependence on foreign oil, will not be practical over the next 10 to 20 years, the energy secretary said Thursday, and the government will cut off funds for the vehicles' development.

Developing those cells and coming up with a way to transport the hydrogen is a big challenge, Energy Secretary Steven Chu said in releasing energy-related details of the administration's budget for the year beginning Oct. 1. Dr. Chu said the government preferred to focus on projects that would bear fruit more quickly.

The retreat from cars powered by fuel cells counters Mr. Bush's prediction in 2003 that "the first car driven by a child born today could be powered by hydrogen, and pollution-free." The Energy Department will continue to pay for research into stationary fuel cells, which Dr. Chu said could be used like batteries on the power grid and do not require compact storage of hydrogen.

The Obama administration will also establish eight "energy innovation hubs," small centers for basic research that Dr. Chu referred to as "Bell Lablettes." These will be financed for five years at a time to lure more scientists into the energy area.

“We’re very devoted to delivering solutions — not just science papers, but solutions — but it will require some basic science,” Dr. Chu, who won a Nobel Prize for his work in physics, said at a news conference.

He said he would probably reverse another Bush administration decision and restore funds for FutureGen, a program to build a power plant prototype. The plant would turn coal into gas, separate out the carbon dioxide — a major contributor to the greenhouse gases that cause global warming — and pump it underground. Then it would burn the hydrogen, which is nearly pollution-free.

An international partnership had selected a site in Mattoon, Ill., for construction of the plant, but the Bush administration decided that the costs were too high and that the money should be spread among more projects.

The Obama administration will also drop spending for research on the exploration of oil and gas deposits because the industry itself has ample resources for that, Dr. Chu said.

While the budget request for the Energy Department is \$26.4 billion, an increase of less than 1 percent, actual spending will actually be far higher because some projects will be financed by the economic stimulus package, said Steve Isakowitz, the department’s chief financial officer.

While Dr. Chu emphasized the allocations for research, a former Energy Department official, Robert Alvarez, pointed out that the budget still includes \$6.4 billion for nuclear weapons and \$4.4 billion for naval reactors, nuclear nonproliferation activity and safe storage of surplus plutonium. “Weapons still make up the largest single expenditure,” he said.

Transformational Energy R&D - Recovery Act

The U.S. Department of Energy, Advanced Research Projects Agency (a new DOE Agency created specifically to foster R&D of transformational energy related technologies) requests proposals for Advanced Research Projects. Transformational technologies are defined as those that disrupt the status quo; not merely better than current technologies, but significantly better. This RFP supports the Nation’s need to overcome the threats posed by climate change and energy security. Concept papers are required, and are due 6/2/09. Final proposals accepted by invitation only.



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