2013 NC Mobile CARE Awards
October 14, 2013

Background:

The NC Mobile Clean Air Renewable Energy (CARE) awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizational efforts at reducing transportation related emissions. Organized by the NC Solar Center at NC State University and sponsored by the NC Department of Transportation, the Mobile CARE initiative brings together three state agencies with overlapping interests in air quality and energy to recognize the achievements of those who are making a difference in North Carolina. For the 7th annual awards, communication leaders from The NC Department of Transportation, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Air Quality and the NC State Energy Office evaluated over two dozen nominations to recommend an impressive group of five.

Candidates were sought in four main categories: Individual, Fleet, Technology or Fuel Provider and Policy or Organization. Some of the criteria used by the judges to select awardees include:

- **Individual** – Individuals who in their personal or professional lives have expanded the use and understanding of best driving practices, alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies as these relate to air quality and energy diversity.

- **Fleet** – Public or private fleets that have successfully integrated alternative fuels and/or advanced transportation technologies and efficiencies into their fleet.

- **Technology or Fuel Provider** – Businesses that support the expansion of advanced transportation technology including producers, marketers and distributors of alternative fuel vehicles, vehicle components, fuel, and related refueling equipment.

- **Policy or Organization** – Public and private organizations and individuals that have been instrumental in implementing policies and programs such as local resolutions, legislative actions, and/or developing organizational priorities and policies supporting mobile emission reductions, alternative fuel and/or advanced transportation technology use.

Our Judges

- Seth Effron
  Communication Director, NC Energy Office
- Jonathon A. Navarro
  Environmental Senior Specialist, NC DENR - Division of Air Quality
- Julia Casadonte
  Communications Officer, NC Dept of Transportation

Award Winners

- **Individual Category:**
  Rich Cregar and Bill Eaker

- **Fleet Category:**
  Frito-Lay

- **Fuel/Tech Provider Category:**
  Mainor Legacy

- **Policy/Organization Category:**
  AeroGRADE
**INDIVIDUAL: Rich Cregar**

As the department head of the Advanced Transportation Technologies Program at Wilson Community College, Rich Cregar has been on the educational forefront for alternative fuel vehicles both in North Carolina and across the country. Rich has presented, moderated, and organized both presentations and workshops that focus on the education of students, professionals, and community members in the alternative fuel field.

Rich has also served on a variety of boards and committees such as the President’s Advisory Committee on Renewable Fuels and the Sustainable Transportation Sector of North Carolina’s Code Green Super Curriculum Improvement Project. Through his work with Advanced Transportation Technologies, Rich received the prestigious honor of being named a “Champion of Change” by the U.S. White House.

In regards to his work at Wilson Community College, Rich helped to restart the Advanced Transportation Technologies Program in August of 2012. Since its reinstatement, the program has jumped in popularity among students and community members alike. In the course of one year, the Transportation Program reached it’s enrollment cap due to space limitations.

Currently, Rich is working with Wilson Community College to renovate a 40,000 square foot facility for a future Advanced Transportation Technical Center. He also has helped the college obtain a Prius hybrid and is working to install a solar electric vehicle charging station. Rich has decided to take his initiatives to the next level by implementing these clean technologies into his personal life. His current vehicle is a Chevy Volt which he estimates saved him 570 gallons of fuel and reduced his CO₂ emissions by 11,400 pounds in 2012 alone.

---

**INDIVIDUAL: Bill Eaker**

Bill Eaker has been a powerful voice for alternative fuels in North Carolina through his work with many different organizations and businesses. Over the course of nine years, Bill persistently worked with community members to meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Clean Cities program. During this period of time, Bill had to develop a strong base of stakeholders, host meetings, and maintain a record of stakeholder alternative fuel progress.

All of his time and work resulted in a Clean Cities designation for the Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition in July 2012. This coalition covers Buncombe, Henderson, Haywood, Madison, and Transylvania counties in western North Carolina.

Since its conception, Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition has made enormous strides to reduce fuel consumption across western North Carolina. In total, the coalition has worked to displace nearly 730,000 gallons of fuel in which 457,000 gallons were through the use of alternative fuels. These achievements have been made possible through Bill’s work with over 75 public and private stakeholders. Bill was also instrumental in designating Land of Sky Clean Vehicle Coalition as a primary investigator in the Carolina Blue
Through this initiative Bill has helped to deploy over 39 compressed natural gas vehicles and upgrade two CNG fueling stations in the Asheville area.

**FLEET: Frito-Lay**

Frito-Lay North America Inc. is a company that has exemplified the success of implementing compressed natural gas vehicles into a large private fleet. Frito-Lay, as a division of PepsiCo, currently operates the seventh largest private delivery fleet in America. They have set the bar high by establishing a goal of operating over 160 cleaner burning compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles across the entire fleet by the end of 2013. Significant strides have already been made towards this goal with the current operation of 72 CNG vehicles throughout the fleet. Companywide, these vehicles displace nearly 936,000 gallons of diesel fuel a year and amount to a total savings of $2.3 million. On top of the economic advantages, Frito-Lay estimates that each vehicle will result in a 23% reduction in greenhouse gases.

A crucial player in Frito-Lay’s plan to implement CNG vehicles has been their Charlotte distribution center, under the direction of Ronnie Kidd. This center alone operates ten Freightliner M2-112 CNG trucks. The Charlotte facility collaborated with U.S. Department of Energy sponsored Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative to fund and make implementation possible. By the end of the year, this facility plans to purchase another ten CNG vehicles to replace some of their current diesels trucks. With the addition of these vehicles, Frito-Lay in Charlotte will be operating more CNG vehicles than diesel. To help facilitate this transition, Frito-Lay is working with Trillium to install a compressed natural gas fueling station near the Charlotte distribution center.

**FUEL / TECHNOLOGY PROVIDER: Mainor Legacy Ventures**

For five years, Lounell Mainor had the dream of opening a full service fueling station in her community. As an additional way to honor her parents and their agricultural heritage, Ms. Mainor considered adding E85 after she learned about the cleaner burning renewable fuel from a petroleum marketer she was working with on her station plans. E85 is a blend of up to 85% of ethanol with gasoline that can be used in hundreds of thousands of flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) operating on North Carolina roads today. Her dream came true when she established Magnolia Marketplace fueling station in 2011.

Lounell began the process of establishing her own commercial station by collaborating with Bunn Brantley Enterprises based out of Rocky Mount, NC. This company helped Lounell design and contract construction for the completion of her station. When it came to funding, Lounell’s company Mainor Legacy Ventures received support through the Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative led by Triangle Clean Cities and
sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. The federal funding helped to offset 50% of the cost associated with the dispenser and storage tank required to sell E85.

In 2011, Mainor Legacy Ventures opened Magnolia Marketplace; a full service fueling station and restaurant located off I-40 in Duplin County. This is the only fueling station in the area to sell E85. Since its opening Magnolia Marketplace has sold over 50,000 gallons of E85 with 19,500 of that being in 2012 alone. This station has also helped boost the local economy with the creation of 14 jobs. Lounell’s work with Mainor Legacy doesn’t just stop at the fueling station. She also helps to educate the community on the benefits of using E85 through her work at the county fair and local automotive dealerships.

**POLICY or ORGANIZATION: AeroGRADE**

AeroGRADE is a successful pilot initiative conceived by the Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) program. MCAQ is a program designed to help Mecklenburg county fight air pollution and meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The AeroGRADE project is part of a larger plan to tackle vehicle emissions called Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines (GRADE). Through GRADE, the Mecklenburg County Air Quality program has been able to raise nearly $3 million to replace diesel engines and reduce over 250 tons of nitrogen oxide. The success of this initiative led to the creation of the AeroGRADE project.

AeroGRADE is a project that focuses on the reduction of emissions through repower and replacement of diesel engines on ground supporting equipment at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. Using relations established during their GRADE project, MCAQ partnered with U.S. Airways, Inc. and Piedmont Airways, Inc. to retrofit diesel operated vehicles. AeroGRADE has worked with these two airlines to fund 66 ground support equipment projects at Charlotte-Douglas. To date, 31 diesel vehicles have been converted from tier zero to tier three engines and 20 vehicles were converted from tier zero diesel to fully electric motors. These upgrades and replacements are expected to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 349.5 tons over the next five years. This reduction in emissions is also expected to correlate to a cost effectiveness of $1,572.69 per ton of nitrogen oxide reduced.

During the course of this process, AeroGRADE also had to address the lack of infrastructure to support the use of electric vehicles. Through collaboration with Charlotte-Douglas airport, several charging stations were also installed. This innovative project was selected by the Southeast Diesel Collaborative as a 2012 Visionary Leader Award recipient.

To learn more about the NC Mobile CARE awards visit:

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

NC Mobile CARE is an initiative of the NC Solar Center / NC State University and is sponsored by the NC Department of Transportation.