Suncoast Clean Cities Coalition back in full swing!
Meeting held on August 5th, future meetings planned

The Suncoast Coalition is holding regular meetings again! Our first meeting of the year was held on August 5th at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) on the USF-Tampa campus.

After introductory remarks by Gary Brosch (CUTR Director and Coalition Board Chair), John Bradley (formerly Coalition Coordinator and now Statewide Facilitator) presented information on alternative fuels legislative initiatives, statewide Clean Cities Coalition alignments, and the Clean Fuel Florida Coalition.

Guest speakers then gave presentations on their particular areas or programs: American Lung Association of Gulfcoast, Florida AirWise program (Rob Brenneke) and the Youth Environmental Association (YEA!) initiative (Aileen Rodriguez); air quality issues for the Tampa Bay region (Alain Watson, Pinellas DEM); and impact of the EPA’s revised policy on CNG/LPG conversions (Jim Law, MotorFuelers). Thanks to our guest speakers for their time and effort.

After a short break with refreshments provided by Tampa Electric /Peoples Gas, Peter Valko, new Coordinator for the Suncoast Coalition, provided a review of U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and Suncoast Clean Cities objectives, discussed current and future energy issues, provided information on the Coalition’s alternative fuel mini-grant program, and discussed the submission of a revised program plan to USDOE for official designation.

About two dozen Coalition members (“stakeholders”) attended the meeting, representing the City of Fort Myers Police Dept., Sarasota Co., Pinellas Co. Dept. of Environmental Management, Hillsborough Co. Environmental Protection Commission, Jerry ULM Dodge, Manatee Co. Environmental Management Dept., System Components Corp., Traviss Tech Center, City of Pinellas Park, Bay Area Commuter Services, American Lung Assn. of Gulfcoast Florida, City of Dunedin, Tampa Electric, NOPEC Corp., Florida Gas Transmission Co., Renewable/Alternative Energy & Environmental Consulting, City of St. Petersburg; MotorFuelers, Space Coast Clean Cities Coalition, Florida Power Corp., Florida Solar Energy Center, USF College of Public Health, and CUTR. Special thanks to the Honorable Scott Paine, Tampa City Council member, for taking time out from his busy schedule to attend the meeting.

The next Suncoast Clean Cities Coalition meeting is scheduled for September 30th from 1:15-3:30pm at CUTR, and a third Coalition meeting for the year is tentatively planned for December 9th.

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