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### **NAFTC “Clean Air & Energy Independence” Conference - a Huge Success!**

MORGANTOWN, WV—The National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) hosted its inaugural “Clean Air & Energy Independence” Conference on June 19-20, at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville, NC, and the Conference was a huge success. With the theme of “Exploring Innovations in Next Generation Vehicles,” attendees, including Clean Cities Coordinators, industry leaders, and government officials were provided with the latest information on alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles.

The NAFTC chose Asheville, NC, as the location for the Conference based on the City of Asheville’s Green Initiatives. Mayor Terry Bellamy delivered the opening remarks at the Conference and discussed the importance of energy reduction strategies, the increased use of clean, more efficient transportation, and the goals and initiatives set by the City of Asheville to reduce the city’s carbon footprint.

“The ‘Clean Air & Energy Independence’ Conference was a tremendous success” said NAFTC Executive Director Al Ebron. “Attendees were provided with information on the latest advancements in the alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicle industry. It was a pleasure to be a part of bringing together so much knowledge, through top industry experts, about the many different types of innovations in next generation vehicles.”

Kevin Rawson, Energy Conservation and Emergency Program Response Coordinator, CINC/Fleet and Family Service Center said, “I had a great time at the conference. I learned a great deal and feel I am much more up to date on alternative fuels options than I was before the conference. I am sharing the information with our fleet manager and management here in the Navy. Thanks again, we look forward to additional opportunities and conferences.”

Activities kicked off with pre-conference workshops on June 18 and included the *First Responder Safety Training: Hybrid Electric Vehicles* 4-hour workshop and the premier rollout of the NAFTC’s *First Responder Safety Training: Hydrogen Vehicles* 4-hour workshop. Both workshops are designed to provide first responders with the needed information to respond to a growing number of automotive accidents involving hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) and hydrogen vehicles as these vehicles become increasingly more popular.

Headquartered at West Virginia University, the NAFTC is the only nationwide training organization that develops curricula and conducts training on alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. Presently consisting of 35 National Training Centers located throughout the United States, the NAFTC’s mission is to provide the training infrastructure for implementing the widespread use of alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles, and advanced technology vehicles, as well as to increase the nation’s energy security and to improve air quality by reducing reliance on foreign oil supply. Additional details on the Conference or the NAFTC are available by calling the NAFTC at (304) 293-7882, or by visiting its Web site, [www.naftc.wvu.edu](http://www.naftc.wvu.edu).

Blossman Gas presented information on propane as an alternative vehicle fuel at this inaugural conference.