

Drive Clean Indiana EMPC Report

Feb. 3, 2022

1. TWO PROJECTS FOR 2022:

Two things I wanted to share for our action plans for 2022:

- **Statewide electric vehicle charging network:** The Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund Committee in September 2021 awarded South Shore Clean Cities (now Drive Clean Indiana) a five-year, \$800,000 grant for outreach, education and marketing for the statewide electric vehicle charging network funded by the VW program. The DC fast charging network will be managed by the Indiana Utility Group through a grant awarded by the Committee in 2021. We will be working with partners on this planning this year and hope to bring more information to you on how the work will impact the NIRPC region and its stakeholders.

 - **Funding assistance & grant readiness:** Everyone is awaiting word on how the Infrastructure Bill funding will be managed and distributed in their states. Secretary Granholm said last month she anticipates guidance to the states coming in mid-February, so we're getting close. We would encourage everyone to become Drive Clean Indiana members and Green Fleet Program members to get ahead of the game. The Green Fleet program includes a fleet assessment and recommendations for what alternative fuel or electric vehicles or technologies you can implement to reduce emissions and costs. This same information and data is used for grant applications to help offset the cost of adding these vehicles to fleets. It's what we call, "being grant-ready." The money is coming and time really is now to get on board and be ready for these funds and others.
2. **Drive Clean Indiana Rebranding:** As part of South Shore Clean Cities' designation by the U.S. Department of Energy as a statewide Clean Cities Coalition, our organization recently underwent a rebranding with a new name. We are now Drive Clean Indiana. The Website is drivecleanindiana.org. Our old emails forward to our new ones which are @drivecleanindiana.org.
3. **Indiana VW Dieselwise with DERA option grants:** Drive Clean Indiana submitted Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund Dieselwise with DERA option grant applications for our members and partners, which were due Dec. 17. We submitted six applications totaling \$1.2 million for the NIRPC region. The VW Committee is scheduled to meet at noon today and their grant awards are on the agenda. We'll keep you posted on awards.

4. **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Installed:** Level 2 charging stations acquired through the VW grant program are beginning to be installed in the NIRPC region, including two in highland, one in Munster and one in Merrillville. DCI wrote the grant applications for these through our partnership with NIRPC.
5. **Cedar Lake police, fire departments add hybrid vehicles:** The Town of Cedar Lake's police and fire departments recently added two hybrid emergency response vehicles, thanks to assistance from a grant from the Indiana Office of Energy Development. Drive Clean Indiana wrote the successful grant application for them through our work with the NIRPC Green Fleet program. A press release on the new vehicles went out on Monday. You can view the press release here: <https://drivecleanindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Cedar-Lake-Drive-Clean-Indiana-Press-Release-January-2022.pdf>
6. **Town of La Porte Nissan LEAF:** Mayor Dermody and other City of La Porte departments recently demoed the all-electric Nissan LEAF through a partnership with Drive Clean Indiana and Nissan. You can read about it in a story in The Times: <https://bit.ly/3nyVU3J>.
7. **U.S. EPA DERA Grants:** The U.S. EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act grants are usually released right around this time. Last year they were released on Jan. 14. We recently learned they will be released sometime this summer or early fall. Stay tuned for more info on those.
8. **EMPOWER Grant:** Drive Clean Indiana is among the participants in a recently awarded U.S. Department of Energy Vehicle Technologies Office electric vehicle workplace charging grant. The project is dubbed EMPOWER – Equitable Mobility Powering Opportunities for Workplace Electrification Readiness. This project includes 30 U.S. DOE Clean Cities Coalitions as a large workforce that will lead the boots-on-the-ground implementation of a new national workplace charging alliance. NIPSCO is also a partner on this project. The work will begin with a year's convening of diverse transportation electrification representatives that will share experience, listen and craft a program that will encourage participation by workplaces in diverse communities across America. Stay tuned for more on this.
9. **Creating Your Decarbonization Plan Webinar:** Join Drive Clean Indiana and Wisconsin Clean Cities for the 2022 Winter Webinar Series! The series continues with the Creating Your Decarbonization Plan Webinar on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Central. Hear from municipal, utility and business leaders who have created decarbonization plans about their methods for successful planning and implementation. The Webinar is free, but registration is required.

Scheduled speakers include:

Evelyn Bauman, Director of Sustainability, City of South Bend

Stephen Holcomb, Manager, Environmental Policy & Sustainability, NiSource

Mahanth Joishy, Superintendent, City of Madison Fleet Service

More speakers being added soon!

Register on our Website here: <https://drivecleanindiana.org/event/february-22-2022-creating-your-decarbonization-plan-webinar/>

10. **Work Truck Week:** In Indianapolis March 8-11. We have free passes for the expo hall and are planning a networking municipal fleet reception for the evening of March 9 if you are going for the day. Stay tuned for details. It will be free, but registration will be required. Contact me at lkeagle@drivecleanindiana.org if interested in passes to the expo hall.
11. **Partners for Clean Air Scholarships:** The 2022 Partners for Clean Air Scholarship program is now accepting applications from qualified seniors in Lake, Porter & LaPorte counties. Up to three scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded. The deadline is March 7. More information: <https://bit.ly/3r4SGWn>
12. **Partners for Clean Air Awards & Luncheon:** The Partners for Clean Air Awards & Luncheon is scheduled for Earth Day, Friday, April 22 at the Hammond Marina. Registration is open and available on our Website at www.drivecleanindiana.org. Award nominations are also being accepted for Partners for Clean Air. You can self-nominate. Details are available on our Website at <https://drivecleanindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-PCA-Awards-Press-Release.pdf>.