

# **NIRPC TPC REPORT July 13, 2021**

1. The IDEM VW program's onroad/nonroad grants were due on June 1. We submitted 22 applications for our members and partners for those and anticipate the committee will vote on the awardees during their August meeting.
2. The VW Committee in May approved \$5.5 million in funding to the Indiana Utility Group to install at least 61 DC Fast electric vehicle charging stations across Indiana. The Indiana Utility Group is made up of eight Indiana utilities, including NIPSCO. SSCC applied for the project and came in second – however – IDEM recommended SSCC manage outreach, education and marketing for the project as we were the only applicant to include that as part of our proposal. The committee agreed on the concept of having us handle outreach, education and marketing, however they believed it would be best to put out an RFP for that aspect of the project. They did so and we have been working on our application, which is due this Friday. We of course believe IDEM got it right when they recommended us for the project so we are very much hoping to come back to you reporting that we were selected to do so.
3. We put in an application for a grant through the U.S. EPA yesterday with seven other Clean Cities coalitions in other states across the country for electrification of Ports. We were the lead agency on the application and used our work with the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor as an example.
4. We have been working with the NWI Forum on their READI grant application for the Region. We appreciate the inclusion of sustainable transportation in the plan in line with the NIRPC 2050 plan for a cohesive regional proposal.
5. As part of our contract with NIRPC, we manage the Region Man public education air quality campaign, which includes a Facebook page and billboards. The air quality action season billboard campaign started June 1 throughout Northwest Indiana and runs through October 1. I hope you're seeing those around the Region. I get excited when I see them. Please be sure to like the Region Man page on FB as well:  
<https://www.facebook.com/RegionManNWI>
6. We are working on a NWI Clean Air Website through our partnership with the NIRPC as well. SSCC managed the RFP, selection of the winning bidder and is working on content and design with the Web designer and host. The site will serve as a clearinghouse for all clean air programs in Northwest Indiana, including SSCC's Green Fleet program. We will

manage the site once it is live, which should be by early fall. We'll keep you updated on that.

7. We are also working with NIRPC on data for the Northwest Indiana regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory with the IU Resilience group to ensure alt fuel vehicles/fueling, EVs/EV charging stations, alt fuel corridor data, etc. is available and used in the process.
8. I'd like to encourage you to be sure your municipality or organization is a member of South Shore Clean Cities and to register for our [Green Fleet program](#) for an audit of your fleet. We are anticipating many more funding opportunities in the coming months and that Green Fleet Audit report serves as the basis for grant applications. Please contact us about how we can help you do that or you can learn more on our Website at [www.southshorecleancities.org](http://www.southshorecleancities.org).
9. Part of our work with the Green Fleet program for NIRPC is outreach and education. Our Annual Conference & Expo is fast approaching on Aug. 10 at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City. This is very much a Green Fleet educational event. We will have multiple breakout sessions, indoor and outdoor vehicle displays, two exhibit halls, a funding panel during the lunch hour with details on upcoming funding opportunities. Sen. Braun will be sitting down with our Executive Director Carl Lisek during the luncheon as well and discussing his role as co-chairman of the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus. Registration is available on our Website at [www.southshorecleancities.org](http://www.southshorecleancities.org). We truly are filling up very quickly and do have occupancy limits so please be sure to get your registration in ASAP.
10. Registration is now open for our Propane Autogas Answers Virtual Event from 10-11:30 a.m. on August 19. We're joining forces with Wisconsin Clean Cities and the Propane Education & Research Council this year for this event which focuses on the economic, environmental & energy security benefits of propane as a motor fuel. You can also register for that on our Website at [www.southshorecleancities.org](http://www.southshorecleancities.org).
11. Partners for Clean Air Days at Gary Southshore Railcats are coming up August 8 & August 29. We always have great giveaways and a good time. We will have some free tickets to give away if anyone is interested or better yet, you can purchase tickets in advance or at the gate and support the Railcats. I'd also like to encourage every organization and community here to become a member of Partners for Clean Air. The Green and Bronze levels are free and require very little commitment beyond pledging to take only one to three actions on air quality action days to help with air quality. You can learn more and register at <https://www.in.gov/idem/partnerships/partners-for-clean-air/become-a-partner/>.