



2024 Newsletter

Silent Auction OPEN

Over 60 items

Bidding begins Jan 22, 2024

Closes Feb 7, 2024 – 1:00pm CST

Most items will be available at the
Clean Fuels Conference



Register and Bid Today

Scan QR code with your camera to
see items and place bids.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH TOM

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE
DONATE TODAY**

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.” The screenwriter Neil Gaiman’s



words remind me of many of you in our industry who take risks, put in the effort, and are changing our world. Your work also contributes to the Foundation’s success, and I want to share previous years’ achievements that your support made possible. In 2023, you helped 42 Congressional, EPA, USDA, and NREL staff visit major biofuel facilities in four states including Iowa, to receive a thorough overview of the industry. Their firsthand knowledge is being shared with the members and leaders of key congressional committees including Agriculture, Appropriations, Energy and

Commerce, and Ways & Means. Starting in 2021, under an EPA DERA grant, you helped two Washington DC utilities replace old-diesel vehicles with 24 new assets running on 100% biodiesel (B100). This initial effort has spurred other organizations to do the same. The number of public B100 vehicles in the DC area will be close to 200 in the coming year. Under another EPA grant, you helped Groundwork Elizabeth in New Jersey establish a task force with youth involvement to install air sensors. Since then, the City of Elizabeth received almost \$1 million as part of EPA’s largest investment in

community air monitoring programs in the Agency's history. Although we don't always know the impact our actions will have, I thank you for your past support and for trying new things. If you haven't before, please consider becoming a 2024 Congressional tour sponsor (deadline Feb.9) and participate in the Silent Auction from now through February 7). Your involvement makes a difference.

With appreciation, *Tom Verry, Executive Director*

TOURS OFFER “MORE SHOW AND LESS TELL”



Tour members visit a used cooking oil plant at Darling Ingredients/Valley Proteins in Baltimore, MD. Photo courtesy of Jed D. Black

When Congressional staffers visit field sites, they want information that cannot be learned sitting in a DC office. The annual Congressional education tours, hosted by the Foundation, provide just that. In 2023, a combined 42 Congressional, EPA, USDA, and NREL staff visited nine major biofuel facilities in New Orleans, Maryland, and Los Angeles receiving an overview of the industry from the farm to fuel production all the way to end use. Tailored to the

industry strengths of each location, the three tours focused on *Building the Ag Economy*, the *Capitol Region*, and *Sustainable Aviation Fuels and Environmental Justice* respectively. Paul Winters of the Clean Fuels Alliance helped lead the tours and noted that, “Many of the tour guests had participated in previous Foundation tours and used this opportunity to deepen their knowledge about the clean fuels industry and its needs.” The participants represented members and leaders of key congressional committees, including Agriculture, Appropriations, Energy and Commerce, and Ways & Means. Paul went on to say that “some Congressional staff were from offices that have been strong champions for years, such as Rep. Rosa DeLauro and Sen. Joni Ernst. There were also participants from new offices representing areas of the country – like Arizona, Delaware, and Florida – that are just beginning to see the benefits of the industry.”



Staffers get a view of the Port of Long Beach's "Green Port" outside Los Angeles, CA where the largest volume of containerized cargo in the nation is handled.



Participants visit a River barge in New Orleans to learn about the handling of feedstocks for biofuel production.

Offering a range of experiences, the tours addressed the staffers' diverse interests. One participant found, "the 'Clean Fuels Health Benefits Study' [Trinity Study] was extremely useful in illustrating tangible ways to lower our emissions and help communities in the short-term." The boat tour of the Port of Long Beach was especially well received leading one staffer to observe, "It was both interesting and tied to a number of federal programs, and the work of the industry and environmental justice." Another staffer noted that, "As the clean fuel industry continues to grow, it is important that job creation grows along with it." Lastly, one participant emphasized the significance of these experiences, stating, "I believe in-person experience within the industry is essential to the work we do as staffers on the Hill because we get a first-hand look at how the policies we make are impacting the public and private sector."

In addition to the Foundation-led tours, our support extended to the 2023 annual Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) Biofuels: Science and Sustainability Tour; a testament to our ongoing outreach commitment. Throughout a comprehensive three-day itinerary, 40 Congressional and Federal agency staff were immersed in an array of biofuel operations, including visits to a biodiesel plant, fuel terminal, research farms, a cattle operation, and a fuel retailer. Among the highlights, the group delved into the intricacies of soybean production at Chevron's Newton location and engaged in an insightful discussion at the airport led by Gevo, focusing on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) adopted by Delta. Notably, discussions touched upon topics like the potential utilization of the GREET model for SAF tax credits, underlining our dedication to fostering innovation and sustainability in the realm of biofuels.

IMPACT OF THE 2021 DERA GRANT

The Foundation's 2021 DERA Grant with the District of Columbia (DC) Department of Public Works and DC Water has been a game-changer in our pursuit of cleaner

transportation and reduced emissions. Targeting vehicle replacements, the project has achieved success moving toward the deployment of 24 new utility vehicles and removal of 42 heavy polluting vehicles. The project will continue until 2025. However, its impact continues to grow. This grant sparked a movement, leading to more B100 (100% biodiesel) vehicles in the region. Nearly 200 of these vehicles will be on the DC roads by the



District of Columbia B100 vehicle

end of this year, replacing 90% of fossil fuels and resulting in a substantial 74% cut in CO2 emissions. This work has inspired subsequent grants and sparked discussions at influential forums. These conversations emphasize biodiesel's crucial role in addressing environmental justice and in propelling the biodiesel movement on a national scale.



New DC Department of Public Works B100 Refuse Haulers.

Looking ahead, the focus is now on affordability and accessibility of sustainable technology, aiming for retrofits and replacements. This grant signifies a shift towards a future reliant on renewable fuels like B100, contributing significantly to our collective efforts in combating climate change. We at the Foundation are proud the 2021 DERA Grant remains an influential example, embodying our commitment to a greener, more sustainable tomorrow.

2024 CLEAN FUELS SUSTAINABILITY GATHERING EXPLORES PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION

The Foundation board is excited to announce its sponsorship of the 2024 Clean Fuels Alliance Sustainability Workshop, set to take place in Kansas City from March 11-13th. This year's event promises an engaging and insightful program aimed at exploring the latest advancements, challenges, and opportunities in sustainable fuels and environmental stewardship. The conference will feature a dynamic lineup of global experts exploring sustainable fuel production. The conference will have vital discussions such as carbon intensity methodology comparison, leveraging technology for reduced carbon intensity in fuel production, and navigating the complex landscape of market based GHG accounting. Of notable significance is the presentation honoring the Beth Calabotta Sustainability Education Grant Awardee, a recognition highlighting exceptional students dedicated to advancing biodiesel sustainability research and underscoring the workshop's readiness to foster future industry leaders.



Veronica Bradley, Clean Fuels Director of Environmental Science, kicking off the 2022 Sustainability workshop.

The Sustainability Workshop owes its success, in part, to the Foundation and other sponsors' consistent support. Through fundraising and sponsorships, including hosting the speaker dinner, the Foundation ensures this crucial event thrives. To register and for more information, visit the Clean Fuels' website at [2024 Sustainability Workshop](#).

FUELING THE FUTURE: THE BETH CALABOTTA SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION GRANT



Beth Callabota

As the application deadline for the Beth Calabotta Sustainability Education Grant closes, excitement builds for the next recipient. This \$2,000 award celebrates student scientists dedicated to sustainable research.

The program lays the foundation for the next generation of fueling innovation in biofuel research. This can be seen through the educational and professional course followed by past award recipient, Mary Kate Mitchell. Recognized in 2018, Mary Kate's

dedication illustrates the grant's role in supporting budding scientists committed to advancing sustainable biofuel solutions. Mary Kate is now a PhD candidate in Chemical and Environmental Engineering at Yale University with a focus on high pressure carbon dioxide as a green solvent in the transesterification of bio-oils. She recently published an article related to this topic in ACS Energy & Fuels. Her success emphasizes how this grant not only provides financial aid for university pursuits and pivotal workshops, but it also symbolizes the Foundation's commitment to pioneering innovative biofuel technologies. Through Mitchell's remarkable strides, this grant represents a steadfast dedication to propelling biofuel advancements that enrich communities and fortify national energy security.

When the winner is announced in February, the recipient will not only receive the award but will also participate at the Clean Fuels Alliance Sustainability Workshop in March 2024. A tremendous opportunity which will shape their academic journey. Though the application deadline has closed, stay tuned for news about future grants, offering bright minds a chance to lead in sustainability, creating a better future for us all.

Let's make this an enduring annual tradition! Your involvement is crucial in reaching more students and ensuring the future of this initiative. By directing support through your corporate education programs, you actively contribute to the growth of our mission. We rely on donations to sustain this program and seek new applicants to expand our impact. Act now to help secure the future of our program.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: EPA GRANTS DRIVING CHANGE IN AIR QUALITY

As we look back on the strides made toward cleaner communities, the EPA small grants are a testament to collective action and positive change. In 2021, the Foundation initiated a project with Groundwork Elizabeth, an environmental justice non-profit in New Jersey that led to a \$75,000 EPA Ports Initiative Partnership in the Environmental Justice Small Grant (EJSG). The EJSG grant empowers communities near ports and rail yards to combat diesel pollution, addressing longstanding environmental issues. Diesel emissions from nearby facilities and traffic disproportionately affect marginalized communities, exacerbating health disparities. At Groundwork Elizabeth, this grant has been instrumental in fostering community engagement, setting the stage for additional collaborative efforts to reduce emissions and improve air quality. It has also led to additional support from EPA and soybean farmers.

This early collaboration between the Foundation and Groundwork Elizabeth was pivotal in creating partnerships between communities and industry stakeholders and paved the way for a further EPA investment of \$1.0 million in additional air monitors in the region.

The EPA's commitment to supporting these endeavors demonstrated a proactive approach in addressing environmental justice concerns. The grants didn't just fund projects; they ignited a movement, empowering communities to take charge of their environmental well-being.



Jonathan Phillips, Groundwork Elizabeth Executive Director speaks at an EJ community event about biodiesel benefits as part of the EPA EJSG program.



The Newark, NJ mayor and GWRCCC Executive Director, second and third from right, were among those attending the community outreach event in Newark this past fall.

YOU COULD WIN ONE-OF-A-KIND GIFTS AND TRIPS


This year's Silent Auction, held during the Clean Fuels Conference promises to be our best ever with a host of new items. Place your bids from the comfort of your home or at the conference using the online bidding app.

Open Jan. 22 to Feb 7 - Closes 1:00 pm CST.

Anyone can participate,

Go to the [Handbid App](#) or use the QR code at the top of the newsletter.

Many items will be on display at the conference although bidders don't have to be present to win. Check out the more than [sixty fabulous items](#) including:

- **Paradise Getaway** - Treat your family to a 5-night stay on Newport Island, a hidden gem, located in popular Newport Beach, CA. Retailing for \$6,000, this comfortable 3-bedroom canal-front home has a private dock located minutes from the beach, restaurants, and shops. Looking for a little more adventure, try kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, sailing, or whale watching. Bicycles and paddleboard included.
- 
- The image shows a two-story house with light-colored siding and a balcony. A private dock extends into a canal in front of the house, with a blue kayak resting on it. The house is surrounded by other residential buildings and a street with parked cars is visible in the background.
- **Top-tier Memorabilia** featuring the biggest names in sports, music, and cinema...Tom Brady, Patrick Mahomes, Bradley Cooper, Cristiano Ronaldo, Tim McGraw, and others.
 - **Sports and Outings** – be a hit among your friends and family hosting them on baseball or golf trips or a visit to the Kansas City Zoo.
 - **Valentine's Day is coming up** – Get your special someone a gift selecting from a wide choice of jewelry, wines, and specialty liquors. Surprise a colleague with a gift card, a model die cast biodiesel transport tractor-trailer or gallons of biodiesel.
 - **And more** - Check out the list of items on the [Handbid App](#).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Online Silent Auction Annual Fundraiser (closes Feb. 7)
- Sustainability Workshop, Kansas City (March 11-13)
- Congressional Tours in New Orleans (April 5), New York City (June 28), and Los Angeles (Sept. 6)

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We achieve what we do because of you.

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Executive Director, Tom Verry, Clean Fuels Foundation

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Our mission is to advance the research and education of clean-burning biomass-based diesel alternatives and their coproducts.

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