

Summary

Clean Fuels Alliance Foundation

2022 Congressional Tours

In 2022 Clean Fuels Foundation hosted or supported three Congressional Tours. The first was in New York City, second in Iowa, and the third in California. Between the three tours the Foundation was able to show almost 60 Congressional staffers the complete biodiesel/renewable diesel value chain. Tour included presentations on and visits to feedstocks producer. This included soybean farms, animal rendering, and used cooking oil. Tour also included visiting facilities where feedstocks are turned into biodiesel and renewable diesel and information was shared on how biodiesel and renewable diesel are distributed to end user.

During the tours, staffers saw how federal policies such as the BTC and the RFS are important to all parts of the country, not just the Midwest.

The Foundation wants to thank our sponsors who made these events possible: AGP, Western Dubuque Biodiesel, Minnesota Soybean Processors, Western Iowa Energy, Chevron REG, Incobrasa, HeroBX, and RBF. We would also like to thank all who hosted events and provided presenters and tour guides.

The Foundation hosted the **2022 NYC & CT Clean Fuels Congressional Tour in June**, directly following the Clean Fuels June Member Meeting. Having the two events in the same week provided travel convenience sponsors. The Foundation hosted 11 congressional staffers, including two from Senate offices that champion the industry on key Senate committees – Energy & Natural Resources and Environment & Public Works, which oversees EPA. The nine House staffers that attended represented offices that serve on Ways & Means, Transportation, and Agriculture committees. One staffer represented the office of Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA), a key supporter of SAF policies.



The theme of the tour was Sustainable Fuels: Improving the Environment and Economy and it focused on both production opportunities and markets for end use. The group heard presentations from Clean

Fuels staff, Colleen Klein of the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association, and Keith Kerman, NYC Chief Fleet Officer and Deputy Commissioner, Citywide Administrative Services.

Participants then toured a NYC Fire Department facility. The facility has a dedicated biodiesel blend pump to showcase how New York City's emergency services rely on liquid fuels and contribute to the city's carbon reduction goals by using biodiesel blends. During the afternoon, participants traveled to New Haven to tour the American GreenFuels facility. Kolmar executives provided a presentation, answered questions, and conducted the tour. The event ended with a roundtable discussion that elicited valuable feedback from participants. Kolmar was encouraged to increase its involvement and participation in the Foundation.

The congressional staffers expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn directly about the industry's economic and environmental benefits as well as its policy priorities. For many, this was their first opportunity to learn specifically about the clean fuels industry and the growing demand for low-carbon fuels in supply chains and heating. One staffer favorably contrasted our educational approach to other industries' that seek policy support through office visits. Another staffer directly commented on the effectiveness of the daylong tour – both the presentations and the site visits. The participants commented most favorably on the morning classroom time that provided context for the other stops. Clean Fuels members have consistently reported more favorable reception in offices where staffers have participated in Foundation tours.

The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association – with sponsorship from the Foundation – hosted the 13th Annual Biofuels Science and Sustainability Tour August 15 - 18. The event attracted 40 participants, including House and Senate staffers, GREET analysts from Argonne National Labs, and representatives of EPA and the US International Trade Commission. This was the largest group ever hosted on the Iowa tour. Several participants from the Foundation's NYC tour also joined the Iowa tour, bringing their experience and learning to conversations with new participants and strengthening their relationship with Clean Fuels. It was clear that participants were maintaining relationships and conversations that began with the New York City tour.



The three-day tour offered multiple opportunities to discuss biodiesel policy priorities and to build new relationships, strengthen connections between the staffers, and increase awareness of the Foundation and Clean Fuels. Tom Verry, Executive Director Clean Fuels Foundation took the opportunity to invite participants to Foundation tours. Prior participants enthusiastically recommended these tours as well.

The Iowa tour included a visit to REG Ralston, highlighting the importance of small producers in the clean fuels industry. Staffers remarked on the difference in scale between the ethanol plants and the biodiesel facility but became aware of the growth in the clean fuels industry. Devin Mogler of GreenPlains and Mike Messing of Elite Octane made strong points that the biodiesel industry's growth is increasing the value of inedible corn oil from ethanol production.

Tour host Monte Shaw agreed to explore additional ways to highlight the biodiesel and soy industries in future years. Paul Winters met with and encouraged connections at the Iowa Pork Producers to get involved in future years – an opportunity to highlight both use of soy as feed and the connected surplus of fat and oil. This would help to balance the tour's overall focus on corn, distiller grains and ethanol.

The Foundation hosted the 2022 California Clean Fuels Congressional Tour, September 15-17. The tour's theme was Sustainable Aviation Fuels and Environmental Justice and provided a clear opportunity to educate key congressional staffers about the importance of growing the existing clean fuel industry to include sustainable aviation, rather than promote SAF in place of biodiesel and renewable diesel.

The tour hosted four staffers, including representatives from offices that sponsored or strongly supported SAF incentives. Nine staff originally registered for the event, including staff from Washington and from California field offices. Five eventually canceled primarily because their bosses were working in the district offices and required them to change plans. Staffers that participated were highly engaged, offering questions throughout the tour and even after returning home. None had previously joined a biodiesel tour – one even opted to join the California tour rather than the Iowa tour – so this was an opportunity to educate and build relationships with new staffers. The offices represented members of the Ways & Means committee and the Transportation committee. They included the offices of Rep. Kildee (D-MI) and Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA), an author and early supporter (respectively) of SAF tax incentives.



The tour began with presentations on the industry's status and policy priorities, the Trinity Study, and the California LCFS. This set a strong context for the message that Congress should support the entire industry. The tour then visited a Vopak fuel terminal – located in Long Beach and in the heart of one of the communities included in the Trinity study – that stores and distributes REG biodiesel and renewable diesel. Vopak stores fuel and vegetable oil around the world, demonstrating a key link in the industry's value chain. Vopak is being encouraged to explore membership in Clean Fuels.

The tour then visited World Energy's Paramount refinery to see SAF production in action. Participants remarked on the value of the industry roundtable during lunch – Foundation sponsors REG, WIE, AGP, and Crimson/SeQuential participated in the roundtable, providing perspectives from small, medium, large, and integrated producers of biodiesel and SAF as well as soy crushing.

The last stop on the tour was highly memorable – Baker Commodities' rendering and used cooking oil facility in Vernon. Participants heard a presentation and discussion from Baker Commodities and their partner New Leaf Biofuel. Participants remarked that this was a must-see stop, given the discussions about these feedstocks – but they gained a new appreciation for the lifecycle of all industry feedstocks.

The California tour featured a very tight agenda, highlighting nearly every step in fuel production and distribution. The Los Angeles area offered numerous potential sites to visit. Participants remarked that they would have appreciated participation by end consumers as well.