

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/SeSequential 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.