



Government, Industry Join to Advance Fuel Choice for Consumers

-FlexFuel Pumps and Vehicles Key in Reducing Maryland Fuel Costs

May 19, 2011, Annapolis Maryland: The [National FlexFuel Vehicle Awareness Campaign](#) and the [Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board](#), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA), will be holding a workshop for gasoline retailers interested in funding assistance for the installation of FlexFuel/Gasoline Blender pumps on May 24 in Annapolis.

FlexFuel/Gasoline Blender pumps are capable of selling higher blends of ethanol up to 85 percent (E85). Federal and state government officials and national ethanol-related organizations will be providing information on a new USDA Program that is part of the Agency's goal of 10,000 blender pumps to meet the requirements of the Renewable Fuels Standard. [The addition of fuel ethanol to the nation's gasoline supply is reducing gasoline prices](#) by as much as [89 cents per gallon at the wholesale level](#) and an average of 25 cents per gallon at the retail level. In some states the price of higher blends of ethanol are more than 50 cents per gallon less than regular unleaded gasoline.

According to Bruce Weaver, state energy coordinator for [USDA Rural Development](#) "The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing funding for FlexFuel/blender pumps through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Specifically, the program will offer grants and guaranteed loans for FlexFuel pumps. These pumps can dispense conventional gasoline along with various blends of gasoline and ethanol." Under the Rural Energy for America Program applicants can receive up to a 25% grant of total eligible project costs and an additional 50% of the costs in a guaranteed loan. Several of the industry groups supporting this event also provide assistance with grant applications, consumer awareness programs, and private sector funds.

Douglas A. Durante, Executive Director of the Clean Fuels Foundation, which is implementing the National FlexFuel Vehicle Awareness Campaign said, "The Mid-Atlantic area has one of the highest concentrations of FlexFuel Vehicles (FFVs) in the nation. The Washington DC metro area and the Northern Virginia/DC/Baltimore corridor have a higher penetration level of FFVs than passenger diesel cars. With 18 E85 stations in Maryland we want to build on that success by adding more of these new FlexFuel blender pumps." Maryland alone will soon have 500,000 FFVs on the road. Nearly half of the new vehicles in showrooms today produced by Chrysler, Ford and General Motors are now FFVs. Most other major automakers also now make FFVs.

Burl Haigwood, project manager for the National and [Maryland FFV Awareness Campaigns](#) said, "Adding ethanol and E85 to the fuel mix represents a simple supply and demand story consumers can understand and directly support. We are working with the Maryland Grain Producers Board, the Maryland Departments of Energy and Agriculture, and all interested parties to have gasoline retailers offer these blends to consumers via FlexFuel pump dispensers, and make sure motorists know where to get it." [There are currently 2,400 stations](#) selling higher blends of ethanol in the U.S. and over 500,000 consumers are choosing it, said Haigwood. "FFV owners have the choice to use any combination of gasoline and up to 85% ethanol, which makes their vehicle "Flexible."

Lynne Hoot, Executive Director of the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board said, "We have been working with gasoline marketers and fleet managers to install E85 outlets in Maryland. To date we have 18 retail outlets offering higher blends of ethanol and many more in the planning stage. For marketers that don't fit into the REAP eligibility requirements, we will continue to support them to find other funding and cost offset opportunities provided by federal tax credits and private industry funds." Those attending the workshop will be provided educational materials, technical guidance, and assistance filing the REAP grant program application. Presentations and information will be provided by Pat McMillan, [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#), Chris Rice, [Maryland Energy Administration](#), Bruce Weaver, [Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), Karl Doenges, [Protec Fuels](#), Burl Haigwood, National and Maryland FlexFuel Vehicle Awareness Campaign, and, and Jill Hamilton, Consultant to the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board

The workshop will be held on May 24th from 11am to 2pm at the Maryland Energy Administration offices at 60 West Street, Suite 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21403. Complimentary lunch will be provided. To RSVP for the event contact Jill Hamilton, President, Sustainable Energy Strategies, Inc., at 703-322-4484 or jhamilton@sesi-online.com. For more information contact Burl Haigwood at burl.haigwood@cleanfuelsdc.org, or review USDA Grant materials provided in the links at [USDA Rural Development REAP Information](#) and [REAP Program Overview](#).