



Grand Forks Orders 2 Hybrid Buses

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**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Grand Forks orders two hybrid busses
- Wahpeton E85 promotion a successful event
- Williston retrofits

**Coordinator's
Corner**

Fall is here, kids are back in school and there is nothing better than the crisp, clean North Dakota air on an autumn morning. Several ND cities are going the extra mile to be green and keep our air clean, and we are happy to have the Red River Valley's own city of Grand Forks featured in this issue. Is your fleet doing something to reduce emissions and petroleum use? Send me an email and tell me about it. You may find yourself as the next feature story!

– Valerie

Grand Forks is going green. They have ordered two hybrid buses due for arrival in June 2010.

Hybrid vehicles are known to be most efficient in stop-and-go traffic. Grand Forks plans to use the new buses on heavy stop-and-go routes, such as University Avenue, which runs through the University of North Dakota's campus and student housing area.

The city will be comparing this newer technology with their current diesel engines and looking at how long the battery will last in the cold Grand Forks climate. The usual life span of a hybrid bus battery is six years. Grand Forks is hopeful that the cold weather will extend the battery's life.



Will Grand Forks be investing in more hybrid buses? They say it will all depend on the cost-effectiveness of the technology. The city has purchased a software program that will help them measure the amount of maintenance, labor, fuel costs, and miles per gallon for both the new diesel engines they purchased and the new hybrids. We look forward to hearing more next summer when the buses arrive.

Williston School District: Diesel Retrofits

Interstate PowerSystems is currently in the process of retrofitting 11 school buses in the Williston area. The buses will be fitted with the Level I Diesel Oxidation Catalyst technology, designed to be installed into the existing exhaust system between the muffler and turbo charger. The project is currently in progress and will be finalized by October 15, 2009.

There are no emission reduction figures available yet, however, "we are hoping for a diesel exhaust particulate reduction of approximately 15% to 30 %," stated Terry Benson of Interstate Power Systems. Diesel exhaust is a mixture of over 450 components, including vapors and fine particles. Diesel engines emit 100 times more sooty particles than gasoline engines and as a result, account from an approximately 26 percent of the total hazardous particulate pollution from fuel combustion in the air, and 66 percent of the particulate pollution from on-road sources. Health effects include cancer, exacerbation of asthma and other respiratory diseases. Children are among the groups with greatest risk. This project will help protect the children in the Williston area from the harmful exhaust from the diesel bus engines.

Fact:

Biodiesel can be used in any diesel engine with little to no modifications to the engine or the fuel system.

Fact:

*According to the latest U.S. Department of Energy facts, cleaner-burning biodiesel provides 3.5 units of energy for every one unit expended in production - the greatest energy return of **any fuel** approved for use as a legal motor fuel.*

E85 for 85¢ OFF in Wahpeton

The Wahpeton E85 Promotion was a success on August 19th, selling more than five times the daily amount of E85 during the three hour event. Farmer's Union Oil of the Southern Valley in Wahpeton discounted E85 fuel during the event by \$0.85 per gallon, bringing the price from \$2.199 down to \$1.349. Station regulars, new customers and people putting E85 in their flex fuel vehicles for the first time enjoyed the generous discount. In addition to E85, FUOSV also sells intermediate blends E20 and E30 and was one of the first sites in North Dakota to install a blender pump.



Upcoming Events



Catch RRVCCC at these upcoming events:

- **October 17:** Women's Showcase, Fargo, ND
- **October 27-28:** ND Petroleum Marketer's Annual Convention and Tradeshow: Bismarck, ND
- **November 10-11:** Great Plains Energy Expo: Bismarck, ND

Visit www.CleanAirChoice.org for updates throughout the year.

Contact Information

If you would like more information regarding these stories, alternative fuels and vehicles, or RRVCCC activities, please contact Valerie Kummer, Coordinator of the Red River Valley Clean Cities Coalition at vkummer@lungnd.org, or visit our website: www.CleanAirChoice.org.

