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Local Automotive Technicians Receive Alternative Fuel Vehicle Operation Training from NAFTC

In coordination with the [National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium \(NAFTC\)](#), the City of Kenner, and the [Dallas Fort Worth Clean Cities](#), the [Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership \(SLCFP\)](#) hosted the “Alternative Fuel Mechanic Training Workshop Series” which aimed to increase the number of trained alternative fuel vehicle mechanics and expand clean transportation options in the region as well as address critical training needs throughout the entire state.

Local vehicle technicians learned key information about servicing and maintaining electric, propane, and natural gas vehicles during courses taught by NAFTC top expert, Mark Schmidt. The workshops took place at the City of Kenner’s Maintenance Facility and the Kenner Parks & Recreation Department Meeting Room from January to February 2017.

NAFTC Director Bill Davis commented, “It is so important for today’s automotive technicians and fleet managers to be knowledgeable about alternative fuel vehicles. The SLCFP has really taken a proactive position of arranging such a broad series of trainings for their local technicians. The NAFTC is happy to share our training and expertise to students as part of this project.”

Participating technicians learned how AFVs operate differently from conventionally-fueled vehicles by gaining hands-on experience with many different types of vehicles. These include an all-electric Mitsubishi i-MiEV provided by Solar Alternatives, a Toyota Prius provided by Enterprise Rent-A-Car, a hybrid tow-truck provided by AAA’s Automobile Club of Missouri, a propane-fueled truck provided by ICOM North America, a CNG Honda Civic by Entergy, a dedicated CNG Honda and dual-fuel F-250 by Atmos Energy, and a CNG shuttle by Park ‘N Fly.

“The interaction was excellent between all of the participants – newer technicians and seasoned veterans that have seen it all, but willing to learn the alt fuel vehicles,” Schmidt said. “The support from the Clean Fuel Partnership, City of Kenner Fleet Management and Parks & Recreation was excellent. What a great experience!”

“A good crew and a great learning experience. Thanks again for the opportunity,” said EV Training participant, Paul Wabnig of Quality Alfa.

Additional information and photographs from the workshops can be found on the SLCFP’s event page: <http://cleanfuelpartnership.weebly.com/events.html>.

Mechanic Training Workshop Series Supported by: 

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Photos



EV Training

Local automotive technicians with Instructor, Mark Schmidt (2nd from right) and Solar Alternative's i-MiEV (left) work with training aids. The NAFTC provides hands-on learning using vehicles and component training aids such as component cutaways (right).



Propane Training

Inspecting ICOM North America's propane F150 (left) Mechanics from Airport Shuttle and AAA with NAFTC Instructor, Mark Schmidt and ICOM Autogas Specialist, David Griffin (right)



Natural Gas Training

Standing under Park n' Fly's CNG shuttle in Kenner's Maintenance Facility (left) Reactwell, LLC. Advanced Technology Solutions CNG dispenser (right)



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About the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership (SLCFP): Housed at the [Regional Planning Commission](#) (RPC) for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, St. John the Baptist and St. Charles Parishes, the [Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership](#) is the U.S. Department of Energy-designated [Clean Cities Coalition](#) for the New Orleans metropolitan area supported by the [Louisiana Department of Natural Resources](#). The Clean Fuel Partnership facilitates efforts to incorporate alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies in fleet operations. The U.S. Department of Energy [Clean Cities](#) initiative advances the nation's economic, environmental and energy security by supporting local actions to cut petroleum use in transportation through a national network of nearly 100 local Clean Cities Coalitions brings together stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

About the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC): The [National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium \(NAFTC\)](#) was founded in 1992 and manages education and outreach programs and activities, develops curricula, and conducts training on subject matter related to alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. The NAFTC works with universities, community colleges and high schools around the country to develop training programs for dissemination at the local level. The organization consists of approximately 50 National and Associate Training Centers that utilize its curricula and training materials. Numerous other members from small business, government, and industry also support the NAFTC's mission. More information about the NAFTC can be found at www.NAFTC.wvu.edu.