

## Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership



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## Annual Reporting

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In January we sent out this year's first annual reporting email announcing the beginning of our annual report tracking to demonstrate transportation emissions reductions in the southeast Louisiana region. We'll be continuing to follow up with stakeholders individually and if you have any questions about participating, please reach out to us! Our goal is to showcase the emissions reductions happening in the region to show the impacts alternative fuels have on reducing greenhouse gases. We will need submissions by the end of March to be included in our 2023 report.

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## Staff Introductions

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Over the last couple of months, Joan Rupp has been helping the SLCFP with many of our operations and we're excited to have her as part of the coalition! Joan is a native of the Baton Rouge area and has been in New Orleans since 2012. The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) welcomed Joan in June 2023 as the Intergovernmental Coordinator. Joan has years of experience as an experienced educator, customer service representative, and advisor, making her the perfect fit for her role with RPC. Joan has excelled in her role, assisting in the day-to-day operational activities for RPC, assisting staff with grants, contracts, and project administration and coordination with local and State agencies throughout the region. Joan is known for her energetic, outgoing personality.

Joan is working with RPC's Clean Cities Coalition by providing assistance and targeted outreach within the coalition's territory to raise awareness and foster a greater understanding of alternative fuels. Joan obtained her Bachelor's in French with a minor in Business Administration from Louisiana State University, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Centenary College in Shreveport, and certification in French Secondary Education. Joan moved to New Orleans after living in France to begin her new life as a young professional. She fell in love with the city of New Orleans and its celebration of different languages and cultures. Joan enjoys spending her free time with her family and friends at local festivals and happy hours, talking walks up to Bayou St. John and in City Park, and cooking.

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## Funding Announcements

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**Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) Funding**

The NOFO is now out for the Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office's Technology Integration Funding Opportunity. **A concept paper is due March 12, 2024** and full applications will be due on April 30, 2024.

This year's funding topics include:

1. Clean Cities Outreach, Engagement, and Technical Assistance
2. Training on Zero Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure Technologies for Critical Emergency Response Workers
3. Clean Transportation Demonstration and Deployment

[Read the full NOFO.](#)

### **FTA Low or No Emissions Vehicles**

FTA has also announced the 2024 Low or No Emissions Vehicles funding opportunity which opened on February 8, 2024. FTA will host two upcoming webinars on February 22 and March 5 to go over more details about this funding opportunity. The full NOFO and links to the upcoming webinars can be found on [FTA's website](#).

We're continuing to track funding sources and have recently updated our [funding handout](#) with potential AFV funding sources and active grants. We'll be doing some more updates to our website to make sure it's updated and accurate. As always, please reach out to us if you would like more resources on upcoming funding opportunities or would like support on a project.

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## **Regional Highlights and News**

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**The City of New Orleans** is looking to create a collaborative to purchase vehicles through the State's Procurement Office. As many of our stakeholders and fleets are public entities, we wanted to share this message from the Office of Sustainability and Resilience:

"The City of New Orleans is committed to transitioning its fleet of internal combustion engine vehicles entirely to electric over the next ten years. Locating EVs to purchase through traditional procurement has proven challenging. To expand purchasing options and access greater inventory of vehicles, we wish to purchase electric vehicles through the Climate Mayor's EV Purchasing Collaborative, which the state procurement office may enter through this Sourcwell contract:

[National Auto Fleet Group: Contract 091521-NAF | Sourcwell \(sourcwell-mn.gov\)](#)

We are seeking to identify other stakeholders in the region wishing to purchase vehicles through this purchasing collaborative, to join in engaging the Office of State Procurement. Please contact Matt Rufo, Transportation Policy and Program Manager, City of New Orleans Office of Resilience and Sustainability, [matt.rufo@nola.gov](mailto:matt.rufo@nola.gov) or 504-658-4964 for more information."

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[Louisiana Clean Fuels](#), our adjacent Clean Cities Coalition that covers the rest of Louisiana has resources available to assist with workplace charging through their [Empower](#) program. If you are interested in more resources and assistance with starting workplace charging, please reach out to our coalition and we will share their resources and contacts.

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The **RPC** will soon be releasing the full draft of our Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) on March 1 through the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. [Implementation funding](#) for the EPA CPRG program is still open and will close on April

1, 2024. RPC's plan will be released on our [website](#). After the release of this PCAP, the RPC will begin work on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and continue with public and stakeholder engagement.



Calling all presenters! The Clean Fuels Summit is the largest alternative fuel conference & expo in the Gulf South. The two-day event will take place in Lake Charles, LA at L'Auberge Casino Resort on **June 12-13, 2024**. This event includes networking, ride & drive, information sessions, workshops, and an exhibition hall.

[Submit a Proposal](#) (deadline April 15, 2024)

If you haven't registered yet, [register here](#).

The event information and registration is being hosted through Louisiana Clean Fuels, but feel free to reach out to our coalition for additional information on the summit and to inquire about speaking and participating in the summit.

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Connect with us:



#### ABOUT US

The [Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership](#) is part of a network of almost 80 US Department of Energy-designated Clean Cities Coalitions nationwide. We provide education, technical assistance, funding information and other services to assist vehicle fleet managers and personnel incorporate cleaner transportation options into their operations. For additional information on cleaner transportation options, please visit the U.S. Department of Energy's [Alternative Fuels Data Center](#) and [Clean Cities](#) websites.

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