



**Press Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**(Photo Opportunity: Crews Welcome)**

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**Tampa Bay Clean Cities to Host “Benefits of Biodiesel” Workshop**  
America’s only commercially available advanced biofuel

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*Tampa, FL* – On August 23, 2016, The Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition (TBCCC) is partnering with the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) and Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) to host *Benefits of Biodiesel*, a half-day event that will provide the latest information about biodiesel from the region's leading industry and research experts.

The workshop aims to educate public and private fleet operators about the advantages of biodiesel and will be held at the THEA office from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, and will feature presentations on biodiesel basics, user and fleet applications, and a look into the future of advanced and sustainable biofuel production.

Register for the *Benefits of Biodiesel* workshop online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/benefits-of-biodiesel-workshop-tickets-26846804515>. The event is free and open to the public.

Following the presentations, THEA will be conducting a tour of the Transportation Management Center (TMC), a joint venture with the City of Tampa. In exchange for the space, the City of Tampa’s Traffic Management Department runs the opening and closing of the Selmon Expressway Reversible Express Lanes (REL)

The TMC is the nerve center where data about the traffic signal system is collected and processed, fused with other operational and control data, synthesized to produce "information", and distributed to stakeholders such as the media, other agencies, and the traveling public. TMC staff uses the information to monitor the operation of the Expressway and the City of Tampa and to initiate control strategies that affect changes in the operation of the traffic light network.

Biodiesel is a renewable, clean-burning fuel that can be made from a diverse mix of sources, including vegetable oils, animal fats, or recycled cooking oil. As an alternative fuel, biodiesel plays an important role in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and in reducing dependence on imported oil. In 2015, over 2 billion of gallons of biodiesel were used, resulting in 1.2 million metric tons reduction of GHG.

“Tampa Bay Clean Cities is pleased to be able to inform people in our region about the benefits and characteristics of this domestically-produced transportation fuel,” said Steve Reich, coordinator for TBCCC. “For those using or managing diesel fleets, the switch to biodiesel is incredibly easy, inexpensive, and results in reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced from 15% up to 75% over petroleum-based diesel depending on the biodiesel blend.”



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### ***Workshop Highlights***

- Alternative fuel consultant and St. Louis Clean Cities coordinator Kevin Herdler will introduce the basics of biodiesel production, infrastructure, and performance.
- Representatives from Florida Power & Light (FPL) will discuss the utility's business model for becoming a biodiesel distributor. One of FPL's longtime customers will also share insights from over a decade of fleet experience using biodiesel.
- Researchers from the University of South Florida will share the latest developments in advanced and sustainable biofuels.
- Special behind-the-scenes tour of THEA/City of Tampa's Transportation Management Center

### ***About TBCCC***

Clean Cities, a U.S. Department of Energy initiative, advances the nation's environmental, economic, and energy security by supporting local actions to reduce petroleum use in transportation. Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition is the area's recognized resource for technical assistance, networking, identification of grant opportunities, and information exchange in the area of advanced transportation options, fuels, and technologies. Learn more about Clean Cities at [cleancities.energy.gov](http://cleancities.energy.gov), and learn how to get involved with the Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition at [tampabaycleancities.org](http://tampabaycleancities.org).

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