

X.13 Raising H₂ and Fuel Cell Awareness in Ohio*

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Objectives

- Increase understanding of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies among state and local governments by 10 percent compared to 2004 baseline.
- Increase knowledge of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies among key target populations (state and local governments) by 20 percent compared to 2004 baseline.

Technical Barriers

This project addresses the following technical barriers from the education section of the Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Infrastructure Technology Program Multiyear Research Development and Demonstration Plan:

- (A) Lack of Readily Available, Objective, and Technically Accurate Information
- (B) Mixed Messages
- (C) Disconnect Between Hydrogen Information and Dissemination Networks
- (D) Lack of Educated Trainers and Training Opportunities
- (E) Regional Differences
- (F) Difficulty of Measuring Success

Contribution to Achievement of DOE Education Milestones

This project will contribute of the following DOE Milestones from the Education section of the Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Infrastructure Technologies Program Multiyear Research Development and Demonstration Plan:

- **Milestone 11:** Develop set of introductory materials suitable for a non technical audience (3Q, 2009)
- **Milestone 13:** Develop material for community seminars (3Q, 2009)
- **Milestone 16:** Develop database of state activities (3Q, 2009)
- **Milestone 17:** Hold "Hydrogen 101" seminars (3Q, 2009 through 3Q, 2010)

Accomplishments

- On May 27 and 28, over 250 people attended the 2009 Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium at Kent State Stark Branch, North Canton, Ohio.
- On May 27, two fuel cell community leaders' forums were educated on fuel cells and the hydrogen economy. Over 100 people attended these two events.
- On May 28 the audience was educated on fuel cells as they relate to power generation solutions for the grid and additionally on fuel cells in the market today.



Introduction

The Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition was tasked with raising the awareness and understanding of fuel cells and the hydrogen economy. In 2009 through 2010 the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition will hold ten community leaders forums. A community leader's forum was held in conjunction with the 2009 Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium. On May 27 and 28 hundreds of people gathered at Kent State Stark for the 2009 Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium. The symposium presented by the Ohio Fuel Cells Coalition began with two DOE Community Leader forums where participants had an opportunity to learn about fuel cells and the hydrogen economy. Day two of the symposium opened with the focus on the theme of fuel cells as it relates to power generation solutions for the grid. Lionel Batty, chairman of the board of directors for the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition kicked off the day with opening remarks followed by the morning

featured speakers, which included Elizabeth Shaw of First Energy Corp., Ethan Brown of Ballard Power System, John M. Schneider of American Power, and Mark Fleiner of Rolls-Royce Fuel Cell (U.S.) Inc.

The 2009 Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium drew over 250 people from around the State of Ohio and across the country. Additionally attendees had an opportunity to interact with and visit the booths of more than 35 exhibitors, which included companies from fuel cell integrators, to manufacturers, to component suppliers and research entities. **This event allowed the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition to educate over 350 individuals on fuel cells and the hydrogen economy thus more than exceeding our expectations.**

Approach

The approach we used and will be using for the ten Community Leaders Forums will be presentations by the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition in conjunction with regional leaders. The presentations will be followed by question and answer periods followed up by informal discussions on fuel cells and the hydrogen economy.

Results

The results have been spelled out in greater detail above, but in summary the one activity we did hold was very successful as 350 people attended. We followed this activity with a survey and the survey results were very positive in that the participants had a significant increase in knowledge and awareness of fuel cells and the hydrogen economy.

Conclusions and Future Directions

We have received input on the first Community Leaders Forum and that input will be incorporated in future events. The following Community Leaders Forums will be held in the next 6 weeks:

- August 21, 2009 - ADA/Lima/Ohio Northern University Community Leaders Forum
- September 2, 2009 – Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio
- September 14, 2009 – Dayton, Ohio
- September 28, 2009 – Columbus, Ohio