

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

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*Congressionally directed project

Contribution to Achievement of DOE Education Milestones

This project will contribute to the following milestones from the Education section of the Fuel Cell 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 (ongoing)
- **Milestone 16:** Develop database of state activities (ongoing)
- **Milestone 17:** Hold "Hydrogen 101" seminars (3Q, 2009 through 2Q, 2011)

Accomplishments

- August 21, 2009 – ADA – Ohio Northern University – 50 people
- September 2, 2009 – Youngstown University – 50 people
- September 14, 2009 – Dayton, Ohio – 25 people
- October 19, 2009 – AFRL
- October 20, 2009 - Akron Sierra Club
- November 12, 2009 - Wayne County Sustainability Forum
- November 16, 2009 - US Fuel Cell Council Seminar
- December 12, 2009 - State House of Representatives Hearing
- January 13, 2010 – Ohio Board of Regents – Green Pathways Inaugural Meeting, Columbus, Ohio - 25 people
- February 4, 2010 – Presentation at Great Lakes Educational Partnership at Stark State College - 20 people
- February 23, 2010 – Ohio Economic Education Summit III - 50 people
- March 2, 2010 – STEM Education Panel at COSI in Columbus, Ohio - 40 people.
- April 9, 2010 – Dublin, Ohio - 75 people – Fuel Cells Opportunity for Growth in Central Ohio
- April 16, 2010 – Aurora, Ohio – 20 people – Industrial Advisory Board for the College of Technology of Kent State University
- May 4, 2010 – Columbus, Ohio – 40 people – 2010 Ohio State University Sustainability Conference
- May 6 and 7, 2010 – Cleveland, Ohio – 180 people – 2010 Symposium

Objectives:

- Increase understanding of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies among state and local governments by 10% 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 Fuel Cell Technology Program Multiyear Research Development and Demonstration Plan:

- (A) Lack of Readily Available, Objective and Technical 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

- May 21, 2010 – Mansfield, Ohio – 40 people – Fuel Cells Opportunity for Growth in North Central Ohio
- June 7, 2010 – Youngstown, Ohio – 125 people – Youngstown Sustainability Conference
- June 17, 2010 – Dublin, Ohio – 20 people – Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition Board of Directors Meeting

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 held 19 community leaders forums. A community leaders forum was held in conjunction with the 2010 Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium. On May 6 and 7 over 200 people gathered at the Great Lakes Science Center for the 2010 Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium. The Symposium presented by the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition began with two community leaders forums where participants had an opportunity to learn about fuel cells and the hydrogen economy. Day 2 of the symposium opened with the focus in the morning on the theme of “Ten Years of Success and Beyond” and in the afternoon “Fuel Cells in the Commercial Market.” In the morning of the first day we honored Governor Bob Taft and Chairman Emeritus of the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition, Trevor Jones for their lifetime achievements in advancing the fuel cell initiative in the State of Ohio. A panel discussion followed were Rodger McKain of Rolls-Royce, Lionel Batty of GrafTech, Bill Dawson of NexTech and Frank Svet of EMTEC discussed their successes over the last 10 years. In the afternoon, we started out with a panel discussion on the proposed Great Lakes Science Center Electrolysis Project. On that panel were Valerie Lyons of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Pete Buca of Parker Hannifin and George Shaw of NASA. They were followed by Bill Whittenberger of Catacel, Bob Rose of the US Fuel Cell Council and Mike McKay of the Ohio Department of Development. This event

allowed the Coalition to educate over 200 individuals on fuel cells and the hydrogen economy which exceeded our expectations.



Approach

The approach we used and will be using for all the 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 answers periods followed up by informal discussions on fuel cells and the hydrogen economy.

Results

In summary, as you see the community leaders forums have been very successful in the last year with over 800 people being drawn to them. As always we followed up the forums 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 additional input on the community leaders forums and we continued to add input to future events. The following community leader forums will be held in the next three months:

- Cincinnati, Ohio
- Toledo, Ohio
- Athens, Ohio
- Dayton, Ohio
- Akron, Ohio
- Canton, Ohio