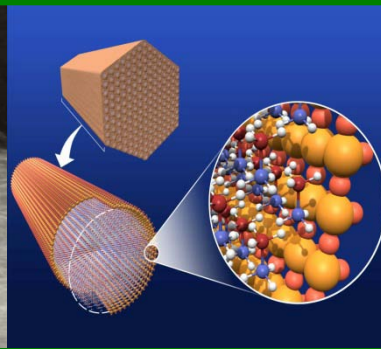




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



# Crosscutting and Validation

*Rick Farmer*

*2011 Annual Merit Review and Peer Evaluation Meeting  
May 9, 2011*

# Goal and Objectives

*Enable widespread commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies through manufacturing cost reductions, technology validation, codes and standards development, and education of key stakeholders*

## **Manufacturing**

- Reduce the manufacturing cost of membrane electrode assemblies by 25% relative to 2008
- Develop fabrication and assembly processes for PEM fuel cells that will help to meet the \$30/kW system target

## **Technology Validation**

- Validate stationary fuel cell systems that co-produce hydrogen and electricity at 40% efficiency and 40,000 hour durability
- Validate fuel cell vehicles achieving 5,000 hour durability and 300 mile driving range

## **Safety, Codes and Standards**

- Complete a quantitative risk assessment to address indoor refueling requirements to be adopted by code development organizations
- Complete material testing to develop ASME/ASTM hydrogen materials qualification guidelines

## **Education**

- Expand availability of university curricula and of case studies of near-term market applications
- Develop an analysis tool to estimate economic impacts of early market fuel cells

## *Examples of key challenges*

### **Manufacturing**

- Lack of high-volume MEA, bipolar plate and balance-of-plant fuel cell manufacturing processes
- Lack of carbon fiber fabrication techniques for conformable tanks

### **Technology Validation**

- Insufficient data on fuel cell performance and durability
- Inadequate data on refueling infrastructure performance

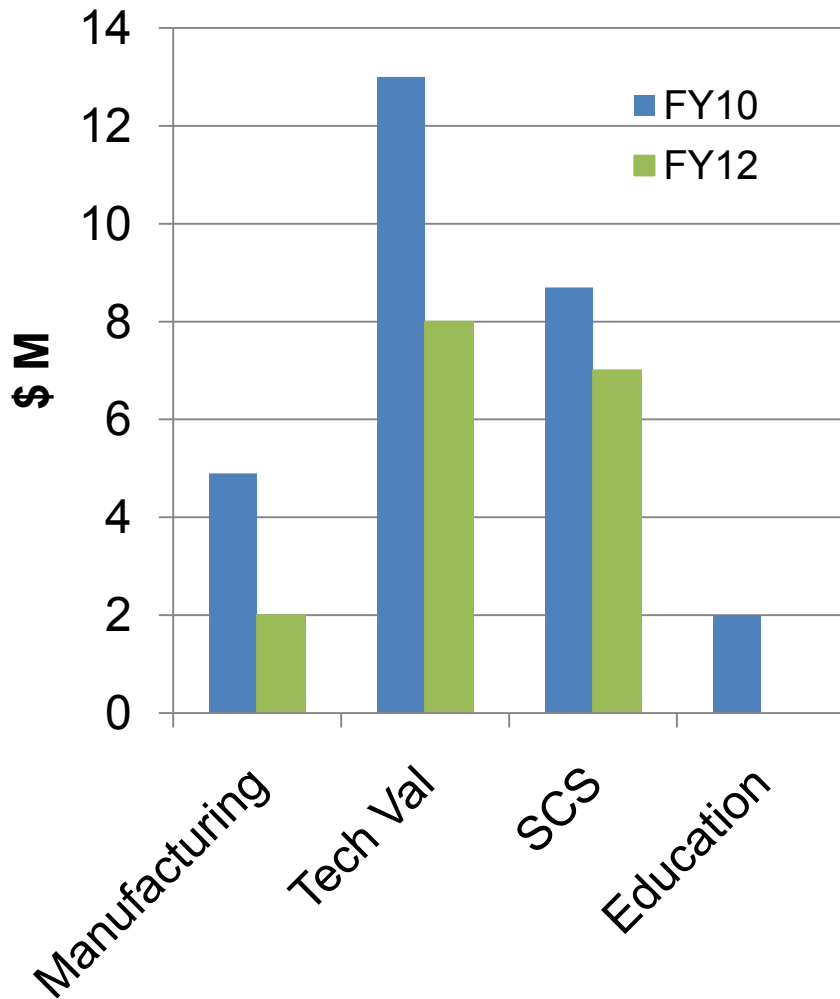
### **Safety, Codes and Standards**

- Harmonizing domestic and international regulations, codes and standards
- Streamlining and standardizing the permitting process for hydrogen infrastructure

### **Education**

- Resistance to change & mixed messages
- Lack of objective, “easily digestible,” information for decision makers

**FY 2012 Request - \$17 M\***  
**FY 2010 Appropriation - \$28.5 M**



\*FY11 appropriation to be determined.

## Emphasis

### Manufacturing

- Develop robust, ultrasonic bonding processes for MEAs
- Develop real-time, online measurement tools

### Technology Validation

- Data collection and analysis of fuel cells used in fork lifts, backup power, buses, and CHHP
- Develop funding opportunity announcement\*\*

### Safety, Codes and Standards

- Facilitate the permitting of hydrogen fueling stations and early market applications
- Harmonization of test protocols for qualification and certification

\*\* Subject to appropriations

# Progress – Manufacturing

*Reduced cost of GDLs by more than 50% and increased manufacturing capacity more than 4X since 2008*

▶ **Ballard has shown GDL production capacity increases of 4X and cost decreases of 50% by:**

- ▶ Eliminating process steps and reducing waste
- ▶ Improving production yields and efficiency

▶ **Process modifications**

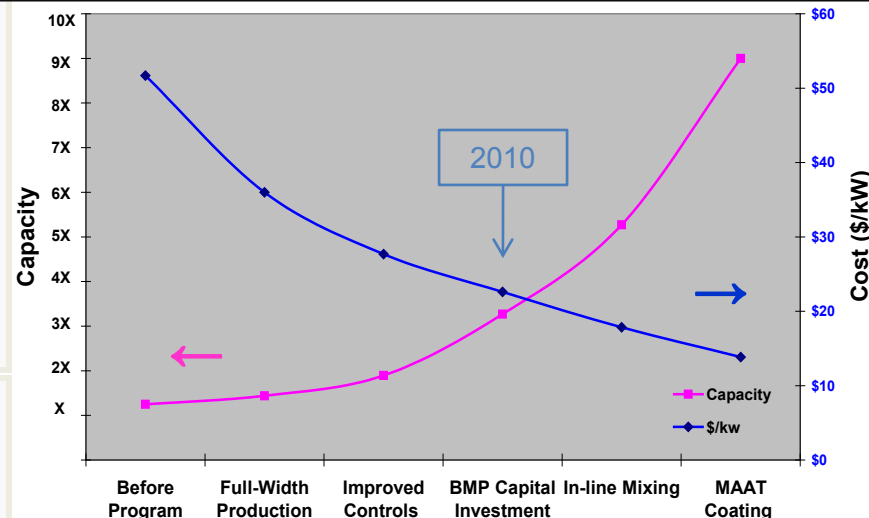
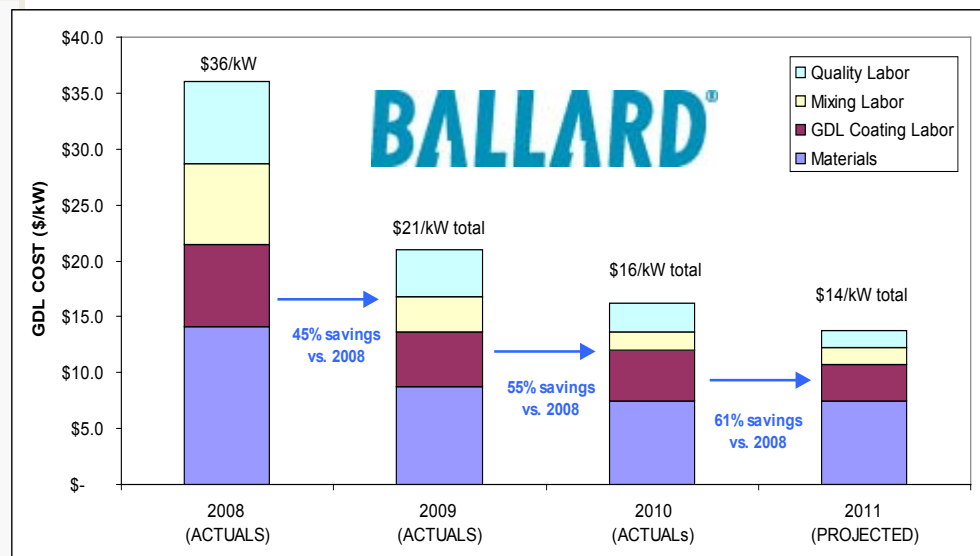
- ▶ Full width production
- ▶ Capital investment

▶ **Control modifications**

- ▶ New quality control technologies such as mass flow meters to control microporous layer loadings
  - ▶ More uniform properties and reduce the amount of ex situ testing required
- ▶ Add an in-line visual inspection station as a final quality tool to improve processing efficiency and accuracy

▶ **Next Steps**

- ▶ In line mixing and “many at a time coating” (MAAT) are projected to achieve additional improvements



*Increased performance by 200 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> at 0.4 V by improving the membrane/anode interface through direct coating*

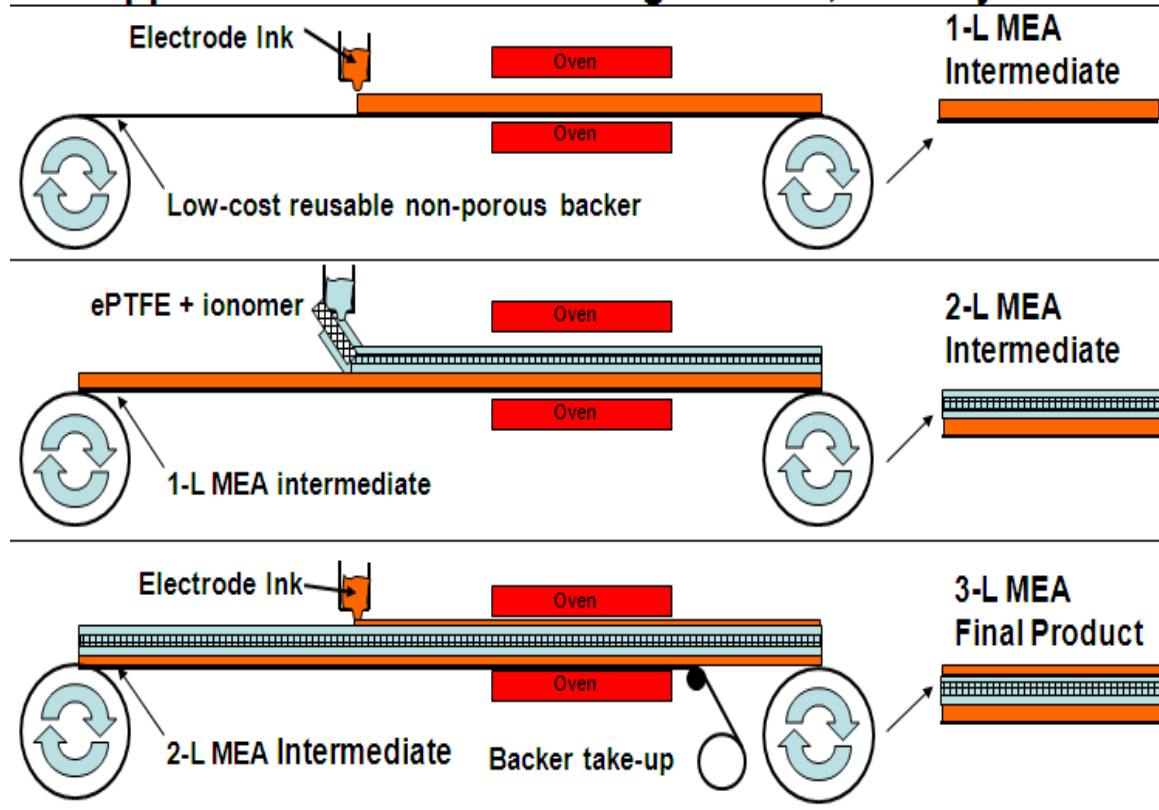
## W. L. Gore increased performance and reduced MEA and stack cost

- Eliminated intermediate backer materials
- Reduced number of coating passes
- Minimized solvent use
- Reduced conditioning time

## Enabling Technologies:

- Direct coating to form membrane–electrode interface
- Gore’s ePTFE membrane reinforcement & PFSA ionomers enable durable, high-performance MEAs
- Modeling of mechanical stress and heat / water management
- Advanced fuel cell testing & diagnostics

## Approach: Low-Cost MEA Mfg Process, Primary Path



## Next Steps: Explore new 3-Layer MEA Process

- Equipment configuration for MEA production
- Raw material formulations
- Map process windows for each layer of the MEA

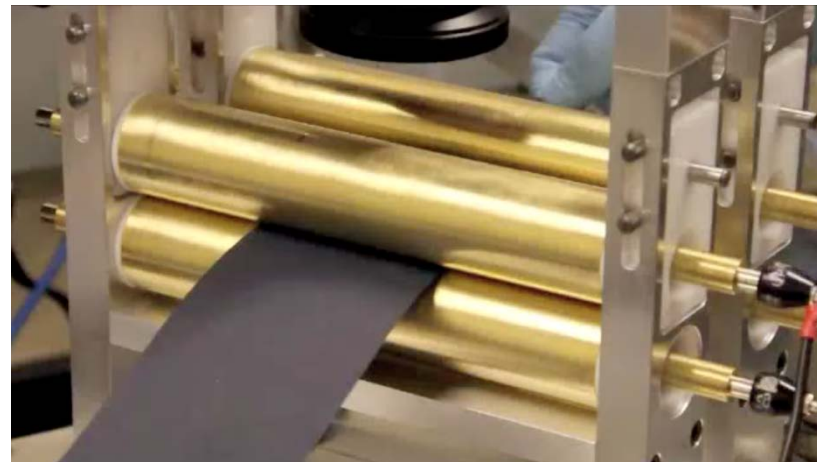


## *Achieved areal image of catalyst layer uniformity*

**Developing in-line diagnostics for MEA component quality control**

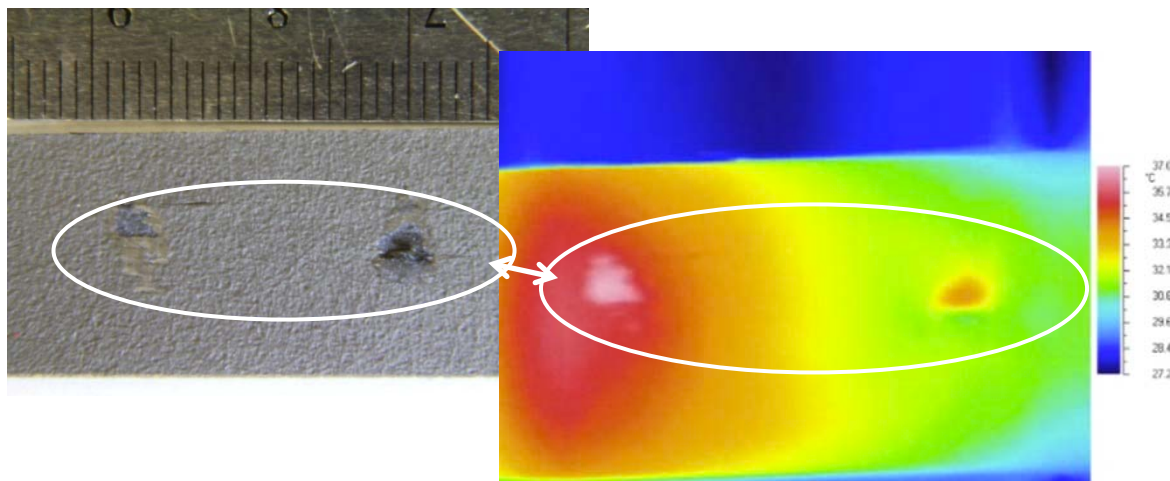
**Investigating effects of manufacturing defects on MEA performance to understand the accuracy requirements for diagnostics**

**Modeling of the systems to improve diagnostic development and implementation**



**Example:**

- DC excitation of catalyst coated membrane causes thermal response
- Defects alter catalyst layer resistance and thermal response
- IR camera provides rapid, quantifiable 2D data



*Learning Demonstration has provided valuable real-world data from fuel cell electric vehicles and hydrogen infrastructure.*



## Learning Demonstration

- 155 fuel cell vehicles
- 24 hydrogen fueling stations
- Fuel cell durability: 2,500 hours projected (nearly 75K miles)
- Fuel cell efficiency: 53 – 59%
- Range: 196 - 254 miles (independently validated 430 mile range)
- Over 3 million miles traveled
- Over 131,000 total vehicle hours driven
- Over 140,000 kg of hydrogen produced or dispensed\*

*\*Not all of this hydrogen is used in Learning Demonstration vehicles.*



# Progress – Technology Validation

*Fuel Economy is 42% to 139% better than diesel and CNG buses.*

## NREL data collection

- DOE and FTA
- 8 fuel cell buses
- 4 sites:  
AC Transit  
SunLine  
CTTRANSIT  
VTA

NREL Hydrogen Evaluations for DOE and FTA																			
Site/Locations	State	# Buses	Eval. Funding	2010				2011				2012				2013			
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
AC Transit /SF Bay Area	CA	12	DOE Technology Validation	ZEB A Demo															
SunLine /Thousand Palms	CA	1		Advanced FCB Project															
City of Burbank/Burbank	CA	1						Burbank FCB											
SunLine /Thousand Palms	CA	1	FTA National Fuel Cell Bus Program									American FCB Demo							
CTTRANSIT /Hartford	CT	4						Nutmeg Hybrid FCB Demo											
USC, CMRTA /Columbia	SC	1		Hybrid FCB				Demo Site 2											
Logan Airport /Boston	MA	1						MA H2 FCB Fleet											
Albany /NY	NY	1						Light-wt FCB											
SFMTA /San Francisco	CA	1						FC APU Hybrid											
CTA /Chicago	IL	1														Chicago FCB			
BJCTA/Birmingham	AL	1														Birmingham FCB			
Ohio State/Columbus	OH	1														EcoSaver IV Hybrid FCB			
USC, CMRTA /Columbia	SC	1														Advanced Composite FCB			

Demonstration sites color coded by geographic area:



Traveled: ~ 450,000 miles

Dispensed: >81,000 kg H<sub>2</sub>



[www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj\\_tech\\_validation.html](http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj_tech_validation.html)

*Fountain Valley Station achieved 54% efficiency (hydrogen + power) of unit when operating in hydrogen co-production mode.*

## BACKGROUND

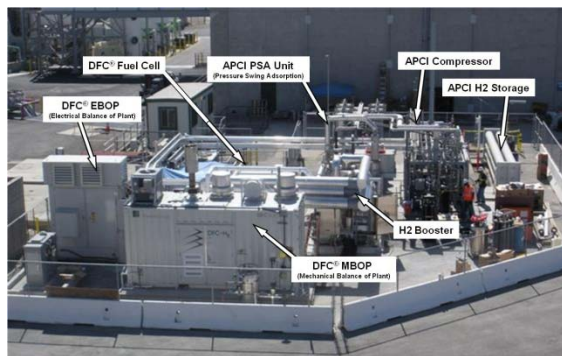
- Host site: Orange County Sanitation District
- Anaerobic digestion of municipal wastewater
- 100 kg/day hydrogen capacity (350 and 700 bar)
- Funding Partners: CARB, SCAQMD and DOE

Led and coordinated by:



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- July 2010: Hydrogen Energy Station delivered to OCSD
- September 2010: First low-load power production from fuel cell unit
- September 2010: Fuel cell unit operated at full load on natural gas
- March 2011: Initial fills of fuel cell vehicles at hydrogen fueling station



## NEXT STEP

- Hydrogen to be produced from biogas in FY 11

# Progress – Safety, Codes and Standards

*Quantified the effect of barrier walls to reduce hazards leading to fifty percent distance reduction credit in some cases*

- QRA methodology embraced by ISO TC197 WG11, analysis and data provided to support standards language
- Support of NFPA enabling update of bulk gas storage Separation Distances in the 2012 edition of NFPA2



Barrier walls reduce separation distances – experimentally validated simulations to determining allowable heat flux iso-surface for 3-minute employee exposure. (2009 IFC).

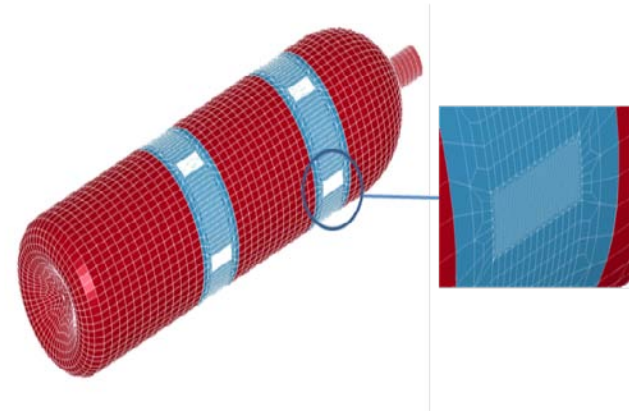
**Sample Table**

Exposure	NFPA 2005 Separation Distance	NFPA 2010 Separation Distance
Lot Lines	5 ft	10 ft
Air intakes (HVAC, compressors, other)	50 ft	10 ft
Ignition sources such as open flames or welding	25 ft	10 ft
Flammable Gas storage systems		
- non-bulk	10 ft	5 ft
- bulk	10 ft or 25 ft	15 ft
Ordinary combustibles	50 ft	5 ft

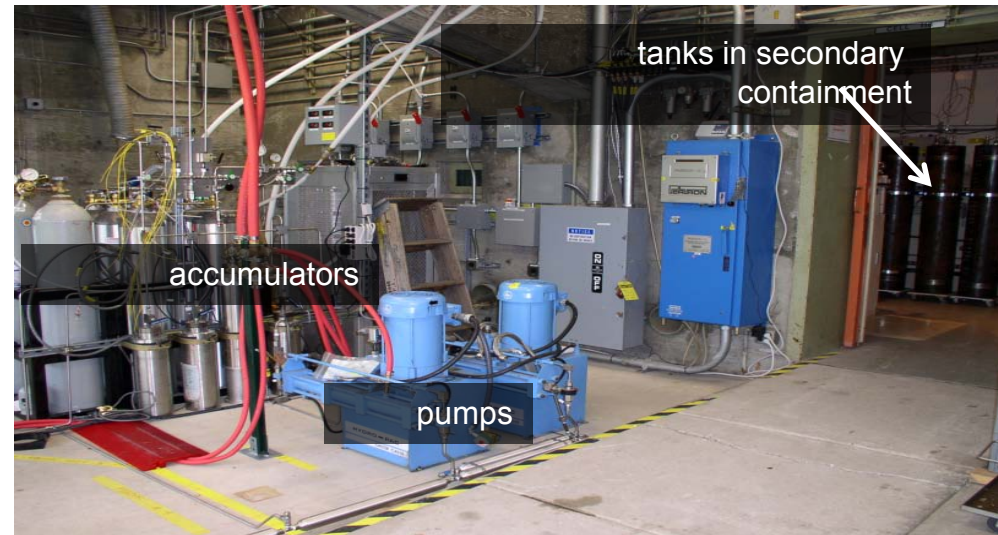
*Pressure cycling of steel hydrogen storage tanks exceeded 34,000 cycles.*

- Characterized crack initiation and growth in two tank designs that are currently in use (4130 steel)
- Conducted pressure cycling of steel storage tanks with gaseous hydrogen 3.5 to 45 MPa; 5 minute cycle time (2 min pressurization step)
- Free volume in tanks is small
- Closed system
- Periodic pressure profile:
  - ~5 min cycles
- 10 tanks can be cycled in parallel
- Gas purity is periodically monitored

Tests are accelerated, but remain relatively long: 10,000 cycles ~ 45 days



*Structural Engineering Analysis of Cylinder*





## Expanded first responder training and updated hydrogen incident and safety best-practices databases



### First Responder Training

- Upgraded web-based Introduction to Hydrogen Safety for First Responders –17,000 visits since January 2007.
- Conducted prop-based training at the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) training center and in California reaching over 300 students from 18 states.

### Hydrogen Safety Awareness

- Created new “Lessons Learned Corner” to analyze hydrogen safety themes
- In collaboration with NASA, added information on hydrogen properties
- Updated hydride storage and handling for large scale experiments (SNL)

[www.h2incidents.org](http://www.h2incidents.org)

[www.h2bestpractices.org](http://www.h2bestpractices.org)



*Early Market Outreach leads to deployment of 100 new fuel cell forklifts.*



- Early Market Outreach
  - Hands-on education sessions at material handling equipment dealerships, community colleges, & green business expos
  - **SUCCESS:** One site is acquiring 100 fuel cell forklifts as a result

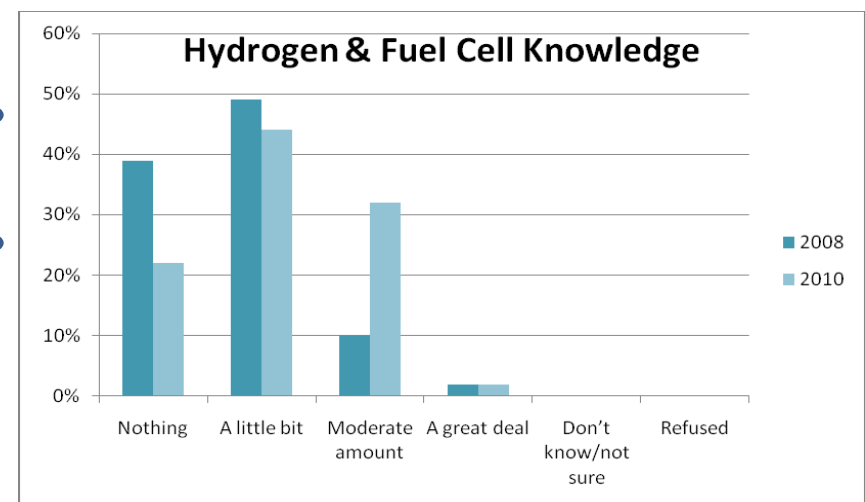
- Fact sheets and reports for stakeholder use:
  - Fuel Cells for Material Handling  
[hydrogenandfuelcells/education/pdfs/early\\_markets\\_forklifts.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/education/pdfs/early_markets_forklifts.pdf)
  - Case study Verizon Fuel Cell CHP experience  
[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/fccs\\_verizon10.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/fccs_verizon10.pdf)
  - Case study Fuels Cells at Omaha Bank Data Center  
[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/fccs\\_omaha10.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/fccs_omaha10.pdf)
  - Commissioned reports by Fuel Cells 2000
    - Business Case for Fuel Cells Report
    - Fuel Cells Market Report
    - State of the States Report

*Up to 200% increase of fuel cell knowledge level*

## Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology

- Developed database of key stakeholders in Northeast states
- Assessed the economic impact of the hydrogen and fuel cell industry (H<sub>2</sub>/FC) in an 8-state region (NE, NY, NJ)
- Surveyed the Level of Knowledge of State and Local Decision Makers and Key Stakeholders

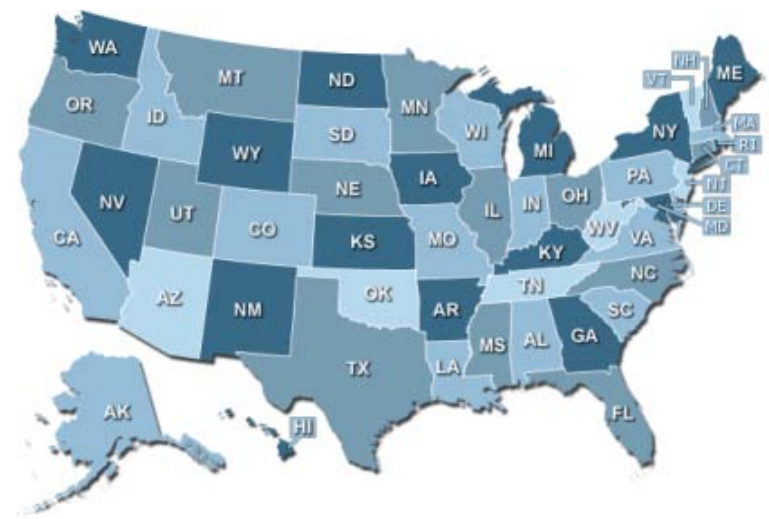
	2008	2010
Nothing	39%	22%
A little bit	49%	44%
A Moderate amount	10%	32%
A great deal	2%	2%
Don't know/not sure	0%	0%
Refused	0%	0%



# Progress – Education

*Webinar Series targets state & local government officials and stakeholders to facilitate market acceptance.*

- Co-hosted by the Clean States Energy Alliance and the Technology Transition Corporation
- Topics included:
  - Fuel Cells for Supermarkets (April 2011)
  - H<sub>2</sub> Production and Storage for Fuel Cells (Feb 2011)
  - DOE Fuel Cell Technologies Program Budget Overview (Dec 2010)
- Future Topics:
  - May 17, 2011: Local Leaders Create Fuel Cell Success Stories
  - June 9, 2011: Fuel Cells and Renewable Portfolio Standards
  - June 21, 2011: The Top 5 Fuel Cell States: Why Local Policies Mean Green Growth



[hydrogenandfuelcells/education/state\\_local\\_calls.html](http://hydrogenandfuelcells/education/state_local_calls.html)

- July 19, 2011: Where the Jobs Are: Hydrogen Fuel Cells in Your Area
- August 16, 2011: Go Local: Maximizing Your Local Renewable Resources With Fuel Cells

*RFI issued March 31, 2011 and closes June 1, 2011.*

## Areas of Interest

- Innovative concepts for:
  - Stationary fuel cell systems for residential and commercial applications, including combined-heat-and-power (CHP)
  - Combined-heat-hydrogen-and-power (CHHP) co-production fuel cell systems
- Technology Validation projects for other markets

For more information:

[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/news\\_detail.html?news\\_id=16873](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/news_detail.html?news_id=16873)

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=84333>

*The International Conference on Hydrogen Safety will enhance public awareness and trust in hydrogen technologies.*

Organized by



Endorsed by



**September 12-14, 2011**  
**San Francisco, CA-USA**

**The ICHS 2011 will focus on the improvement, knowledge, and understanding of hydrogen safety to overcome barriers to the wide spread use of hydrogen as an energy carrier.**

**Therefore, this conference seeks papers focused on the following three major themes:**

- 1) International Progress on Enabling Opportunities**
- 2) Latest Advances in Hydrogen Safety R&D and**
- 3) Risk Management of Hydrogen Technologies. All contributions to be included in the ICHS 2011 will be evaluated exclusively in the light of their scientific content and relevance to hydrogen safety.**

*The conference will improve public awareness and trust in hydrogen technologies by communicating a better understanding of both the hazards and risks associated with hydrogen and their management.*



## *New opportunities exist for postdoctoral research in hydrogen and fuel cell technologies*

- Fuel Cell Technologies Program Opportunities Available
    - Conduct applied research at universities, national laboratories, and other research facilities
    - Up to five positions are available in the areas of hydrogen production, hydrogen delivery, hydrogen storage, and fuel cells
- Applications are due June 30, 2011
  - Winners will be announced mid-August
  - Fellowships will begin in mid-November 2011



**Postdoctoral fellowships in hydrogen and fuel cell research**

## *Crosscutting and Validation Teams*

### **DOE Headquarters**

Nancy L. Garland  
Manufacturing R&D  
[nancy.garland@ee.doe.gov](mailto:nancy.garland@ee.doe.gov)

John Garbak  
Technology Validation  
[john.garbak@ee.doe.gov](mailto:john.garbak@ee.doe.gov)

Carole Read  
Education  
[carole.read@ee.doe.gov](mailto:carole.read@ee.doe.gov)

Antonio Ruiz  
Safety, Codes and Standards  
[antonio.ruiz@ee.doe.gov](mailto:antonio.ruiz@ee.doe.gov)

### **DOE Golden Field Office**

Jesse Adams  
[jesse.adams@go.doe.gov](mailto:jesse.adams@go.doe.gov)

Jim Alkire  
[jim.alkire@go.doe.gov](mailto:jim.alkire@go.doe.gov)

Doug Hooker  
[doug.hooker@go.doe.gov](mailto:doug.hooker@go.doe.gov)

Greg Kleen  
[gregory.kleen@go.doe.gov](mailto:gregory.kleen@go.doe.gov)

Dave Peterson  
[david.peterson@go.doe.gov](mailto:david.peterson@go.doe.gov)

Katie Randolph  
[katie.randolph@go.doe.gov](mailto:katie.randolph@go.doe.gov)

Reg Tyler  
[reginald.tyler@go.doe.gov](mailto:reginald.tyler@go.doe.gov)

### **Support**

Kristin Nawoj  
[kristin.nawoj@ee.doe.gov](mailto:kristin.nawoj@ee.doe.gov)

Kathleen O'Malley  
[kathleen.o'malley@ee.doe.gov](mailto:kathleen.o'malley@ee.doe.gov)