



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overarching goal and mission of the Blue Skyways Collaborative (BSC) is to improve the quality of life in North America's Heartland, including the border areas with Canada and Mexico, by reducing air pollution through voluntary collaboration and innovations in fuel and energy use. Objectives envisioned to help achieve this goal include: (1) develop Federal, tri-national, State, and local partnerships, (2) market the Collaborative's message, (3) promote the sharing of new renewable energy technologies and innovations, (4) leverage resources, and (5) implement projects that utilize both proven and innovative technologies for diesel engines, alternative fuels and renewable energy. To execute this mission, six subcommittees were developed to identify priorities, and establish and implement goals. The six subcommittees include: (1) On-Road, (2) Non-Road, (3) Air/Water/Rail, (4) Fuels, (5) Energy, and (6) Communications and Outreach.

The On-Road Subcommittee work plan is highlighted by five projects:

- Encourage anti-idling policies from 25 private and public sector partners
- Increase truck stop electrification sites to 40 by 2010
- Target 50 retailers/shippers to take an On-Road Challenge
- Increase Clean School Bus funds from \$1.2 million to \$3 million
- Retrofit 100 vehicles on the U.S./Mexico border and increase Free and Secure Trade lanes at border crossings from 5 to 8 by 2008

Work plan details of the Non-Road Subcommittee entail two major areas of emphasis:

- Decrease emissions reduction from metropolitan area construction projects
- Establish a variety of agriculture sector projects pertaining to biodiesel and agricultural practices to reduce air emissions

Previously successful projects are targeted by the Air/Water/Rail Subcommittee for duplication, in addition to new projects such as:

- Voluntary Airport Low Emission project for Houston airports
- "Green Goat" rail project
- An innovative port project with the Port of Houston Authority
- Several future project opportunities are also highlighted

The Fuels Subcommittee focuses on three main project areas:

- Introduction of E85 into the fuel supply in collaborative areas where it does not exist
- Showcasing a biodiesel project within the agriculture community
- Sharing of information about alternative renewable fuels

Seven project areas are identified by the Energy Subcommittee including:

- Funding for energy efficiency loan programs
- Development of GIS-based wind resources
- Templates for ground source heat pumps and solar hot water heaters
- Methane to energy project
- Installation of renewable energy at E85 and truck stop electrification sites
- Facilitation of new wind farms
- Capitalizing on developing opportunities

The Communications and Outreach Subcommittee work plan is highlighted by:

- Development of the BlueSkyways.org website
- Recruitment of 100 BSC Communities
- Establishment of a sponsorship program
- Marketing of the BSC message

