



## **Alternative Fuels & Vehicles National Conference + Expo Most Successful to Date**

Record oil prices, international pressure to curb greenhouse gases, and the most robust alternative fuels industry in history are the key reasons that the AF&V National Conference + Expo in Las Vegas, May 11-14, was tremendously successful. More than 1600 fleet representatives and industry decision makers came to Las Vegas from 17 countries and 44 states.

Annaloyd Thomason, Executive Director of Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute (AFVi), the host company, set the tone for the conference in her opening remarks. She said, “Changes in government policy, massive education, research, technological innovation, international cooperation and a firm resolve have already given us the robust alternative fuel, vehicle and advanced transportation market that we enjoy today. Alternative fuels alone do not solve the energy, climate and geopolitical conundrum. But, because of investments that have been made for decades, today, there is a market that has already been built from the ground up.”

The 2008 Conference featured renowned keynote speakers including Larry Burns of General Motors, geopolitical analyst Amy Myers Jaffe, peak oil expert Robert Hirsch, and billionaire entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens. Actor Ed Begley, Jr., Google.org, Robert Hall of UPS, and former Department of Energy Clean Cities head Marcy Rood, were all honored for their contributions to the industry. Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman presented leadership awards to his city’s Fleet and Transportation Services Manager, Dan Hyde, and to the Las Vegas Valley Water District.

The fuel and technology neutral Conference featured compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, propane, ethanol, biodiesel, clean diesel, electric, fuel cell and hybrid electric vehicles. In over forty hours of sessions, registrants heard a broad range of subjects including new feedstocks for biofuels, plug-in hybrids, government funding and incentives, and product rollouts for every vehicle class.

The sold out Expo Hall reflected the diversity of the alternative fuels market and included more than 100 industry exhibitors, many of which were participating for the first time. Team Ethanol IndyCar® owner, Bobby Rahal, and actor Ed Begley, Jr. kicked off the annual Ride-n-Drive with a ribbon cutting. For four-and-a-half hours attendees could drive vehicles ranging from the hydrogen fueled Chevrolet Equinox and the natural gas Civic GX to the propane powered El Dorado Shuttle Bus. Newcomer Foton America Bus Company was on hand, launching their CNG city transit bus, which goes on sale in the United States later this summer.

The Conference had strong representation from public and private fleets ranging from Anheuser-Busch, Cox Enterprises, and GE Fleet to airport, port, refuse and transit fleets from coast to coast. There were eight federal government agencies represented and a variety of state agencies including the California Energy Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Major sponsors included the American Clean Skies Foundation, American Honda, Clean Energy, Foton America, General Motors and Toyota. Major exhibitors included the Bosch Group, Cummins Westport, Ford Motor Company, IMPCO Technologies, Kenworth, Miles Electric Vehicles, Sterling Trucks and Westport Innovations.

AFVi's 2009 Alternative Fuels & Vehicles Conference + Expo will be held from April 19-22 at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in Buena Vista, Florida.