



Winter, 2005 Newsletter

Dear Friend of Don't Be Fueled!

We hope you have had very a warm and happy holiday, and a good green start to 2006! We have some internal news that we'd like to share. We have turned our faithful volunteers into a board of directors and hired a new part-time Managing Director, Dr. Sandy Parry. Sandy has worked with mothers on issues close to their hearts for years, and brings us new ideas and new energy. Let's all welcome her to Don't Be Fueled! She'd love to hear your ideas – just write her at email@dontbefueled.org. Lauren T. Klein Hayes and Lynn Fuller, former co-directors of Don't Be Fueled, will continue as board members.

Events:

A terrific & informative lecture by scientist Thomas P. Wenzel

The mothers and others at Don't Be Fueled sponsored a terrific lecture on October 26th given by Tom Wenzel, Energy Policy Researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, on SUV safety, or the lack thereof. Contact us to borrow the video or powerpoint of this talk, or see The Ark's news article on our website at www.dontbefueled.org. Wenzel's research on SUV roll-over rates and the superior safety of smaller, more maneuverable cars is staggering.

We are planning our next event in the San Francisco Bay Area as a screening of the documentary, "End of Suburbia" which you can look up in our "Take Action" section below. If you are available to volunteer to help us put this together, do let us know at email@dontbefueled.org. Thanks!

Check it out! New Biodiesel Fueling Station in S.F.

A biodiesel fueling station has opened up in San Francisco at the Olympian gas station at 23rd and 3rd - Check it out if you are in the neighborhood.

Did you know Gumby and Pokey are helping out in the fuel economy and air pollution effort??

Check them out on the California Lung Association website:

<http://www.californialung.org/spotlight/gumby.html>

Important Film Review

We're happy to have a review of the movie *Syriana* by Sheira Kahn, one of our DBF board members. She insists that not only DBF friends should see this movie, but anyone "who consumes oil" should see it!

"Syriana": A Grayer Shade of Oil

by Sheira Kahn, board member, Don't Be Fueled!

Syriana is not the best movie in the world, but it's about the most pressing topic in the world: the global web of governments and terror, bound together by the precious filament of oil. That's why not only friends of Don't Be Fueled, but anyone who consumes oil should go see it. We're all implicated in the events of the movie, whether we like it or not.

Director/writer Stephen Gaghan does an impressive job of weaving together a dizzying array of characters, places and storylines. You could look at this as a flaw of the film, and indeed the movie leaves viewers behind at certain turns in the story line. But you could also look at this as a successful attempt on Gaghan's part to produce in viewers a felt experience of the confusing net of intrigue and deceit surrounding oil, governments and regular citizens.

The story begins with a CIA operative (Clooney) selling arms. He completes the deal, but grows concerned when he sees the arms changing hands. The party to whom he sold the weapons seemed shady, but by their aggressive tactics and Clooney's alarm, we learn that the next guys are even more suspicious. Thus begins a tale of shades and more shades. The viewer is never fully let in on who is a good guy and who is a bad guy. Once again, while this can be frustrating, it is certainly part of the movie's message: the lines of good and bad are not clearly drawn and everyone involved has some of both.

Syriana tells us that that we're all involved with the mess. If you leave the theatre feeling confused or frustrated, think of it this way: you have been touched by the slimy world of oil. But the reward is that now you know more about the oil business, and how to change the world for the better.

You'll love this new website – it's so practical, and it's founded by and for kids (and all of us!)

<http://www.pumpemup.org>

They've got some very practical info we should all be using – see below.

With properly inflated tires... Americans could save 4 million gallons of gas each day. Americans could save hundreds of dollars each year on gas and extend the life of their tires by 25%. Americans could all breathe cleaner air because we'd be burning less gas. Americans would be able to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge forever!

How To:

-Always use the inflation recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. You can find this information in several places; in your car owner's manual, on the inside of the glove box door or posted on the edge of the driver side door.

-Use a reliable gauge. *This is very important!*

-For those of you who have radial tires, they are supposed to have a slight bulge in the sidewall at their proper inflation pressure.

-Make sure to check your tire pressure every month and especially before a long trip or pulling a heavy load.

-To get a true tire pressure reading, check the tires when they're cold -- when your vehicle has been idle for at least three hours.

Information gathered from the US Dept. of Energy, US Dept. of Transportation, Michelin, Firestone and Goodyear websites. <http://www.pumpemup.org>

IN THE NEWS....

E.P.A. planning closer estimate of car mileage

By Micheline Maynard

DETROIT, Jan. 10 - The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday proposed the first major overhaul in 20 years in the way it calculates fuel economy ratings for cars and trucks, a shift the agency said would reduce mileage estimates by 5 to 30 percent, depending on the type of driving and kind of vehicle.

The new testing method, according to Stephen L. Johnson, the E.P.A. administrator, would come much closer to bridging "the gap between what the window sticker says and what consumers can expect in their fuel economy." The agency expects to introduce the changes starting with 2008 models, which will go on sale as early as a year from now.

Consumer groups have long complained that the E.P.A.'s ratings are far too optimistic, compared with fuel economy that drivers achieve under real-world conditions. Recent tests by Consumer Reports magazine, for example, found that E.P.A. window stickers could be off by up to 50 percent.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/11/automobiles/11epa.html?ex=1294635600&en=f49fd99c362fadb&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss>

The Union of Concerned Scientists comments on this news:

"Under the new plan, consumers will have access to better information while the EPA works on a permanent solution," added Jason Mark, director of UCS's Clean Vehicles Program. "New test cycles based on a comprehensive study of real world driving patterns and fuel economy, and a plan to monitor these variables on an ongoing basis, are needed to solve this problem over the long term."

http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/EPA-Proposal-on-fuel-econ-labeling.html

Tax credits for going green!

For fuel efficient vehicles the 2005 tax deduction of \$2000 has been replaced with up to \$3400 in tax credits, depending on fuel efficiency. For more information see

<http://www.ase.org/content/article/detail/2654>

Note: Additional tax credit information (for businesses, builders, consumers and more) is available at the Tax Incentive Assistance Project (TIAP) Web site

<http://www.energytaxincentives.org/tiap-passenger-vehicles.html>

News about the carpool lanes...

The California DMV reports that they are approving about 200 HOV access stickers

each day. Once the state has issued 50,000 decals - which at the current rate may be around March of this year - Caltrans will study whether the carpool lanes have become too congested to allow access to any more solo hybrid drivers. If the 90 day study determines that this is so, then the program could be shut down to new users as early as summer, 2006. So, anyone thinking of buying a hybrid car and applying for one of those prized yellow stickers might want to get moving with their plans. (Marin Independent Journal, January 22, 2006.)

More city fleets of hybrids!

Only 236 of the bus fleet of 1400 in King County, Seattle, are currently hybrids but the fleet manager anticipates that the number will multiply. The manager, Jim Boon, says "Having the stored energy in the batteries gives us much better fuel economy".

In Chicago, Mayor Richard Daley has proposed an ordinance requiring any taxi fleet owner with 50 or more medallions to have at least one hybrid or alternative - fuel vehicle by June 2007. Mayor Daley is quoted as saying that his goal is to have the greenest city in America.

In New York City, lawmakers should vote soon on whether to turn all cabs into hybrids in the next five years. Hybrid models like the Prius and Civic can be too small for cabbies so they are stuck with expensive SUV hybrids like the Ford Escape and Toyota Highlander. Traditionally cabbies buy used Crown Victoria police cruisers. No time soon, a Ford spokesman is reported as saying when asked when we might see a hybrid Crown Victoria. (Newsweek - January 9, 2006)

Ford, GM make big push to promote 'Flex-Fuel' vehicles:

Although they've been working on vehicles that run on ethanol for more than a decade, Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. are now making an aggressive push into the alternative fuel market. Last week GM ran its first national advertising campaign promoting one of its so-called flex-fuel vehicles, the Chevy Tahoe. Ford last

month began selling flex-fuel versions of its popular F-150 pickup. (Wall Street Journal: Jan. 13, 2006).

Ethanol is made from corn or other crops and blended w/ gasoline. They are using the combination of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline, called E85. Some E85 vehicles are already on road but there are only about 500 filling stations that sell E85. However, 2000 more filling stations are expected to begin selling E85 in 2006. E85 can be less expensive than gasoline primarily due to heavy tax subsidies. Vehicles get less mpg on E85 than gasoline due to lower energy content, but the source is renewable and domestic. (http://www.automotivedigest.com/view_art.asp?articlesID=17964)
Sourced From: Detroit Free Press; Detroit News, January 6, 2006)

REMINDER! Auto makers offer more hybrid choices

Ford Motor Company has come out with a second hybrid SUV. Even the Sierra Club is commending them. Check out sierraclub.org to see the new Mercury Mariner SUV.

Ford has also recently announced that by 2010, half their line-up will be hybrid cars, and that 280,000 of their vehicles will be ethanol-capable by 2007. We need many more hybrids, biodiesels (biodiesel.org) and alternative fuel cars, but this is really getting us rolling. Lexus (a division of Toyota) also has a luxury hybrid RX SUV on the market now. Check it out - this is the one many stars took to the Academy Awards last year ! (http://www.lexus.com/models/rx_hybrid/index.html)

Toyota remains way ahead of all the other car manufacturers when it comes to selling hybrids, and has just added a hybrid version of the Highlander SUV. You can find out more at :

http://www.toyota.com/vehicles/minisite/hybrid/index.html?s_van=GM_TN_HIGHLANDERHYBRID. Next in line : the Camry Hybrid! And don't forget the Honda Civic Hybrids, and now their Accord Hybrid!

TAKE ACTION!

Join the Virtual March on DC about global warming! Please sign up at <http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/about.asp>

ANOTHER ACTION! Go to the Post Carbon Institute's (postcarbon.org) website and buy their documentary entitled, "[The End of Suburbia](#)." The DVD is just a fraction of the cost of the what peak oil will cost us -- and the price of the DVD goes to a good group too! Have some friends over and watch this one - It will really make you think and talk about what our lives will look like in 2-10 years, when oil resources have peaked, with or without hurricanes on the Gulf Coast. See the photo in the link below -- We'll have to get used to these kind of prices in the very near future!
(<http://news.yahoo.com/photo/050901/480/gagb10409010035>).

Happy & safe driving to you,

Sandy, Lauren, Eva, Lynn, Betsy, Janie, Sheira and the rest of the DBF gang 'o moms and others!

PS: If you still haven't signed our petition, please do, and if you can manage a donation, it's all very easy on our website: www.dontbefueled.org. Thanks!