



PRESS RELEASE
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**VERMONT CLEAN CITIES COALITION TRAINS CITY STAFF IN ECO-DRIVING
Techniques Help Save Money while Reducing Environmental Footprint**

May 25, 2011 - Burlington, VT. Last week Burlington city government hosted the first of two eco-driving workshops for City staff who drive. This initiative, organized by the Burlington Legacy Project and offered through the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition at UVM's Transportation Research Center, coincided with the state-wide Way to Go Challenge. This training is also part of City government's attempt to reach its 2020 carbon dioxide reduction goal of 20% reduction while saving money. "This important training can not only help us save money on fuel costs," said Mayor Bob Kiss, "it can also help reduce our environmental footprint and support our wider sustainability goals."

Eco-driving training, which involves hands-on energy-reduction strategies by encouraging more fuel-efficient driving and less idling, was offered to City staff from the Parks and Recreation and the Public Works Department by Vermont Clean Cities Coalition (VCCC) coordinator Tom McGrath. According to the Transportation Research Center website (www.uvm.edu/~transctr/), the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition supports, promotes and helps coordinate Vermont-related efforts related to fuel efficient and alternative fueled vehicles, transportation alternatives to the automobile, anti-idling campaigns, programs that reduce vehicle miles traveled, and funding opportunities and programs that address the Clean Cities mission. Eco-driving is one such effort to support this mission.

During the 2 hour session, the 43 workshop participants learned dozens of methods for cutting back on fuel consumption including how to make small changes in driving habits—such as avoiding “jackrabbit” starts and stops, keeping tires properly inflated, and removing excess weight from a vehicle— that can greatly decrease the amount of fuel used. As part of the training, participants used scan gauges in their vehicles to see how their newly acquired eco-driving techniques affected fuel consumption in real-time. Later, participants re-grouped to share results and findings.

A second training will be held in July for Burlington Electric Department staff and others who drive for work. Interested parties are invited to find out more by visiting <http://www.uvm.edu/~transctr/?Page=cleancty/default.php> or by contacting Jennifer Green, Legacy Project Coordinator at jgreen@ci.burlington.vt.us or Tom McGrath at tmcgrath@uvm.edu.