

PRESS INFORMATION

Biofuel Cities European Partnership at the World Biofuels Markets Conference

Brussels, 18 March 2008 – Yesterday the Biofuel Cities European Partnership ran a vibrant session at the World Biofuel Markets Conference in Brussels. The session focused on the adoption of biofuels on a local and regional scale, bringing together the objectives of the Biofuel Cities European Partnership and the increasing demand for up to date information about the use of biofuels in local fleets.

Representatives of several stakeholder groups attended the session which was moderated by Eric Van den Heuvel, initiator of the project and Senior Consultant at Ecofys International. The presentations were based on two recent publications by Biofuel Cities; the Policy Handbook and the Procurement Guide. The value of these publications was demonstrated by linking them to practical examples in presentations from the City of Stockholm and Graz (BDI).

“Think Global Act Local” was the key message delivered in the presentations and discussions about the Policy Handbook and policy measures. Organisations and local governments were encouraged to learn from cities like Stockholm and Graz and take a proactive role in starting projects in their cities or fields of operation.

The session also tackled problems facing the cities taking steps towards using biofuels. When dealing with the lack of suitable vehicles for biofuels, (joint) procurement proved to be the solution. The Ökodrive project in Graz has shown that by joining forces, larger quantities of vehicles can be ordered, making it more attractive for vehicle suppliers to bring their cars, buses and trucks to the respective local markets. By ordering a large quantity of biodiesel buses, Graz was able to encourage suppliers to meet their requirements.

In addition to the products presented at the conference session, other tools created by the Biofuel Cities European Partnership were highlighted. These included the Technical Guidance for the use of biofuels in your fleet and an online project monitoring tool. The Biofuel Cities stand in the exhibition hall proved very popular, revealing the continued interest cities have in developing the use of biofuels for transport.

To download the recent Biofuel Cities publications and for more information about the online project monitoring tool, please visit the Biofuel Cities website, www.biofuel-cities.eu.

###

Word count: 368



www.biofuel-cities.eu

Background Information:

The Biofuel Cities European Partnership is a forum for the application of biofuels. Open to all stakeholders in the area of biofuels for vehicles, it offers www.biofuel-cities.eu - a one-stop-shop for information on biofuels application; online facilities, workshops and study tours to exchange and network with your peers and learn from experts; news, publications and tools to provide information, guidance and support.

Biofuel Cities European Partnership participants have full access to all features and participation is free. The Partnership was unofficially launched in July 2007 and 794 biofuels professionals and other interested stakeholders have already signed up

The Biofuel Cities European Partnership was created and is managed by the Biofuel Cities project, which aims to demonstrate the broadscale use of new and innovative biofuel technologies. Biofuel Cities covers the complete chain from feedstock to biofuels production, distribution and utilisation in vehicle fleets. The project is co-ordinated by seven partners* that share unique and extensive experiences, not only on biofuels research and application and sustainable mobility, but also on the specific needs of local governments and private enterprise. It is supported by the European Commission under the EU's Sixth Research Framework Programme.

*SenterNovem, Exergia, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, INEM – International Network for Environmental Management, IPIEO – Institute for Fuels and Renewable Energy, NEN – Netherlands Standardisation Institute, VITO - Flemish Institute for Technological Research

Attached: Picture Ms. Alexandra Langenheld, [JPG, 200 kb]

- **For more information:**

Ciara Leonard
Information Services
ICLEI European Secretariat
E-mail: secretariat@biofuel-cities.eu
Fax: +49 761 368 92 99

Or

www..biofuel-cities.eu

