



March 2024

## Featured Article

### **OptiFuel Systems Announces RNG-Powered Locomotive Project Katie Jauch, Palmetto Clean Fuels Intern**

OptiFuel Systems (OptiFuel), based in Beaufort, South Carolina, is spearheading a new project to develop a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) locomotive. The initiative, supported by a US Department of Energy (DOE) grant, will utilize RNG from existing organic waste streams to power the locomotive. The project has a goal of zero emissions of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, along with a negative carbon intensity. OptiFuel's team, who has experience in developing hydrogen fuel cell technology as well as battery systems, opted for RNG over the other technologies for the continuous high-power capabilities and cost-effectiveness that RNG offers. Testing of the prototype locomotive will begin in early 2025 at the Federal Railroad Administration's Transportation Technology Center located in Pueblo, Colorado. The testing will proceed through a two year, one-million-mile test program in 2026 with full production planning to begin in 2028.

The project aims to make fleet transitions more affordable through modular designs and standardized components. OptiFuel's Refueling Solutions Plan allows locomotives to use both old diesel and new RNG locomotives seamlessly without changing routes, stop distances, or refueling times. OptiFuel estimates it will provide about 3,000 RNG tender cars and refueling stations to major locomotive operators at no cost, offsetting an estimated \$8.5 billion in infrastructure costs by securing long-term contracts for RNG supply at a fixed price. By leveraging existing resources and infrastructure, the project aims to reduce emissions and enhance efficiency.

## Articles

[U.S. Postal Service Unveils First Postal Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and Electric Delivery Vehicles](#)

[Why This South Carolina Company is Retrofitting Two Diesel Locomotives to Battery Power](#)

[EVs Won Over Early Adopters, But Mainstream Buyers Aren't Along for the Ride Yet Work Begins on \\$3.5B EV Battery Manufacturing Plant in Berkeley County](#)

[OneHwh2 Announces Expansion to South Carolina](#)

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### **2024 Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative Survey**

The South Carolina Energy Office – Office of Regulatory Staff (SCEO) published its Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative (EVSI) report in September 2022, which included initial recommendations from SC’s EV stakeholders, like you. The SCEO remains committed to gathering stakeholder input on EV initiatives.

Help the SCEO gather more information about the challenges, opportunities, and ongoing efforts related to transportation electrification in South Carolina since September 2022 by completing the survey.

For additional information, please visit the [Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative \(EVSI\)](#) page on the SCEO website.

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## Training Opportunities

**2024 Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo**

**April 5 – April 7, 2024**

**Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC**

## [Register Here](#)

### What to Expect:

- Collaboration: Make new business contacts and connect with colleagues, old and new, at valuable networking events offered each day at the Expo.
- Education: Choose from more than 40 education sessions or workshops.
- Innovation: Discover more than 250 suppliers of goods and services. Expo offers the largest array of propane-related products and services in the world, all in one convenient location.

## **SAVE THE DATE: Clean Transportation Grant Funding Webinar**

**April 11, 2024 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am (ET)**

Attend a collaborative webinar hosted by Palmetto Clean Fuels and others for lessons learned from Charging and Fueling Infrastructure awarded applicants and topic-based breakout sessions for upcoming clean transportation opportunities. For more information contact [palmettocleanfuels@ors.sc.gov](mailto:palmettocleanfuels@ors.sc.gov).

### **About Palmetto Clean Fuels**

Palmetto Clean Fuels Coalition (PCF) is an initiative of the Office of Regulatory Staff - Energy Office. PCF works to increase the use of alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies in South Carolina. PCF strives to help public and private entities, as well as individuals, lower fuel costs, improve air quality, and reduce petroleum consumption. PCF also promotes idle reduction, fuel economy measures, vehicle miles traveled reductions, and bicycle and pedestrian efforts.



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