



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS AND RIT ANNOUNCE NEW GREEN FLEET VEHICLE PARTNERSHIP

Continuing her leadership in protecting the environment, growing our economy and employing our community's spirit of innovation, **Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks** was today joined by Rochester Institute of Technology (**RIT**) **President William Destler** and **Nabil Nasr, Director of The Center for Integrated Manufacturing** to announce a new partnership between Monroe County and RIT to assess the performance of Monroe County's E85 flex-fuel vehicles. E85 flex-fuel comprise of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline that power the flex-fuel vehicles engines.

In November 2006, the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies (CIMS) received a four-year grant from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Research and Innovative Technology Administration to conduct a study of Alternative Fuels and Life-Cycle Engineering. As part of their research, RIT will study Monroe County's "Green Fleet" to evaluate the environmental and economic impact of the different alternative fuels and propulsion technologies utilized in these vehicles.

"This cooperative public-private partnership will enhance CIMS' research program, while providing Monroe County with valuable technical assistance and strategic planning information to further our efforts in utilizing alternative fuels," stated **County Executive Brooks**. *"Monroe County maintains a fleet of 78 hybrid-electric, and E-85 flex-fuel vehicles. The research and information that will result from this partnership will enhance our efforts to protect our taxpayers, and protect our environment."*

"This partnership is a perfect example of how universities can utilize their technical expertise to assist government agencies in providing better services to their constituents while also helping to promote new industries," added **President Destler**. *"Alternative energy will be a major technology area in the coming years and CIMS' efforts will help put Monroe County and RIT on the cutting edge of this important field."*

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RIT Partnership

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*“We are very pleased to be collaborating with Monroe County to enhance our alternative fuel research,” added **CIMS Director Nasr**. “This effort will assist in reducing the county’s reliance on fossil fuels, improve fuel efficiency and ultimately reduce costs to taxpayers. It’s a great example of how university-based research can support regional needs and economic growth. We also hope to use the data collected here to promote alternative energy implementation in additional public vehicle fleets throughout the country.”*

Throughout the course of the research, CIMS will be performing a number of laboratory and field studies on the County’s “Green Fleet” to quantify the impact of these fuels on propulsion system durability, reliability, vehicle availability and life-cycle cost. In addition, CIMS will be examining issues on expanding the available supply and application of these alternative fuels.

Additionally, the County’s Department of Environmental Services and CIMS will study the potential expansion of the E85 flex-fueled vehicle fleet, types of flex-fueled vehicles that meet County work requirements, methods to increase the amount of biodiesel used in County vehicles, storage considerations for alternative fuels, and long-range outlook for fuel cells and hydrogen power.

Plans are also underway to open an E-85 service station on Scottsville Road by the end of the year. In addition, Monroe County has announced a partnership with High Falls Brewery to create a new research and production facility which will convert waste streams produced by the Brewery into low-cost ethanol. Ethanol produced through this new initiative will be used in County-owned vehicles.

Today’s announcement by the County Executive is the latest in a series of initiatives to conserve energy, protect the environment and save money for the taxpayers of Monroe County. A referral has been introduced by the County Executive authorizing the County to enter into this partnership. Legislators will vote on this partnership at the August meeting of the County Legislature.

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