

## EV Talks Sustainable Fuels in China

With a population of more than 1.2 billion, more than 160 cities with over a million residents, extensive industrial and agricultural operations and a rapidly growing economy, China surpassed the US in 2010 as the largest generator of greenhouse gases in the world. Similarly, due to the large percentage of electricity generated by coal and the major influx of vehicles/drivers as a result of increased prosperity, the country has experienced exceedingly poor air quality in its many urban centers, and especially in Beijing.



*EV's Tomich, as part of a US delegation of energy experts, participated in a full day meeting at the Int'l Union for Science & Tech Innovation in Beijing*

Understanding the severity of the climate change situation, the Chinese government is funding a wide range of research and technology development initiatives. One such program is the Zhongguancun Technology Forum, held in Beijing each fall. Highlighting a growing interest in addressing the climate issue, this year's Forum had a specific focus on the mitigation, capture and utilization of human-generated methane.

Looking to the West for insights, experience and collaboration, a group of US experts comprised of scientists, government officials, entrepreneurs and environmental leaders was put together through the partnership of Stony Brook University on Long Island and Tongji University in Beijing.

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## Energy Vision & The People's Climate March

On September 21<sup>st</sup> Energy Vision participated in the People's Climate March, the largest climate movement in history. The march, which involved more than 1,500 organizations and attracted some 400,000 participants, was a call to world leaders to take immediate action to backpedal from the climate precipice.

The timing of the march was important, as the United Nations Climate Summit was just two days later at the UN Headquarters in New York. In fact, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon – who summoned 120 heads of state to discuss ways to effectively tackle climate change – was among those who marched along Manhattan's Upper West Side. As world leaders converged on NYC for the Summit, poised to make commitments to address the problem, the marchers aimed to show leaders that the environmental movement was not just sounding an alarm, but was offering realistic solutions.

Energy Vision's participation in the march – within the "Solutions" group – highlighted one viable solution: harnessing the world's vast flow of organic wastes to produce a clean, virtually greenhouse gas-free

transportation fuel called "renewable natural gas" or RNG – able to be used wherever fossil gas has been used, no drilling required.

In line with EV's focus on sustainable waste management and low-carbon transportation fuels, UNEP's Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants announced a new initiative during the NYC Summit.

Its goal is to reduce methane, black carbon, and other short-lived pollutants in the municipal solid waste sector through the implementation of proven, technologically and economically viable strategies. This goal could be pursued, for example, by reducing open burning of waste, or by producing renewable natural gas fuel for use in refuse fleets.

So far, 26 major cities (see chart, page 3) have signed on. Some are at the city assessment stage, work plan stage, or acting as mentor cities. With technical assistance, training, capacity-building, and awareness-raising from the public and private sectors, cities will cut emissions by implementing and expanding programs to capture the



*March participants in New York City on September 21, 2014*

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joanna D. Underwood

As Energy Vision's team lined up for the People's Climate March on September 21<sup>st</sup> in NYC, we looked at the huge crowd – which ultimately reached over 400,000 – and saw on screens along the route some of the more than 2,000 simultaneous climate change events in other countries. The message of urgency on taking action to stem the flow of greenhouse gases that threaten our future was clear.



EV's Joanna Underwood, Kyle Jeremiah and intern Aicha Zakraoui at the Climate March

This call for action was echoed at the UN Climate Summit days later. It was followed by a landmark agreement between President Obama and China's President Xi Jinping. They affirmed the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation on climate change and working with other countries to ensure that a protocol, or other legal form of agreement on how to pursue global reductions in greenhouse gases emerges from the 2015 UN Climate Conference in Paris.

All these events focused primarily on the elimination of fossil fuel-based energy and vehicle fuel systems used across the industrialized world. And all give rise to hope that the Paris meeting next year will result in firm goals and deadlines for change. But these long-term commitments won't matter if we do not act on solutions available today. The future we create will be the sum and total of steps we take now.

EV Vice President Matt Tomich (see article page 1), chosen to be part of a new energy planning group created between the US and China, shared information on one fuel that meets the goals of sustainability and is commercially viable NOW – the renewable form of natural gas (RNG). It is made from an abundant and endless resource – organic wastes in the US, in China, and in

every country around the world. Imagine the revolutionary progress that could be made if just the US and China, home to almost a quarter of people on earth and generators of 42% of all greenhouse gases (28% and 13% respectively from transportation) were to turn their organic wastes into carbon-free vehicle fuel.

EV's mission has been to identify solutions that are ready to go and to promote their use.

Through our publications (including the country's first guide for communities on

how to convert their organic wastes into fuel), outreach, media work and workshops, our thrust is that wastes are local and local level action can turn this resource into fuel.

The most effective role of Government in promoting real innovation has been to set policies rewarding the private sector leaders that have such options to offer and to ensure that these policies remain in effect long enough for companies to have the confidence to invest in innovation. Such policies can best drive the level of change needed TODAY. So in 2015, EV's work will have a dual focus: educating the millions of Americans who still don't know about RNG – through ongoing outreach initiatives, expanded media/press coverage and our RNG workshop series; and educating policymakers on the policy options that can best drive and reward innovation meeting goals for use of renewables, greenhouse gas reduction and job creation. On all fronts, RNG is a winner.

Thanks to all our members and donors for the support that has enabled EV to become a major voice in the country for change on the ground – the only kind that really matters. By all counts, the long-term costs of inaction will far outweigh the incremental, up-front investment needed today to move toward a sustainable future. More than ever, the time to act is now.

Best wishes this holiday season!

*Joanna D. Underwood*

## ENERGY VISION: On The Road

**June 17** EV and Greater Washington Region Clean Cities hosted a workshop outside Washington, D.C. focused on the opportunities for renewable natural gas production and use in and around our nation's capital.



UC Davis Professor and leading anaerobic digestion expert Dr. Ruihong Zhang in DC.

**Aug 14** EV's Joanna Underwood and Matt Tomich participated in a press event on the steps of the California Capitol highlighting two new pieces of legislation to ban landfilling of organic waste.

**Aug 19** EV's Tomich spoke at the American Public Works Association's annual conference in Toronto, an international event attended by 3,000 public and private sector leaders.

**Sep 17** EV's Tomich traveled to his home state to speak at the annual Kansas Energy Conference about the potential for renewable natural gas made from agricultural waste.

**Sep 23** EV's Matt Tomich traveled to Beijing, China with a delegation of US experts to participate in the 2014 Zhongguancun Forum. A major topic was the utilization of biogas. (See page 1).

**Sept 26** Pres. Joanna Underwood gave the Opening Address at Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition's annual "Advancing the Choice" Conference" at Beth Page State Park.

**Oct 14** EV coordinated and co-hosted a workshop with the Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition and the Advanced Energy Research & Technology Center at Stony Brook University. The event featured a number of exciting projects underway in the greater NYC region.



AERTC Chairman Bob Catell; EV Pres. Joanna Underwood; National Grid's Don Chahbazzpour; and Long Island Compost CEO Charles Vigliotti

**Nov 18** Energy Vision hosted its annual year-end holiday awards reception in NYC (to be discussed in the next issue). For photos, visit: <http://energy-vision.org/ev-2014-awards-ceremony/>

material and energy value of their waste through the processes of recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion.

The Climate March and Summit in NYC have no doubt also helped to set the stage for the UN Climate Change Summit in Lima, Peru from December 1-12, 2014. The goal of the Lima summit is to develop the framework for a global climate pact that can be refined throughout the year leading up to the 2015 Paris Summit. Ultimately, it is hoped that a legally-binding, universal agreement on climate will be signed in Paris next December, applicable to all member nations, rich and poor.

□ **First 26 cities committed to reducing methane, black carbon, and other harmful emissions under the UNEP’s Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants:**

Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire  
Accra, Ghana  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Amman, Jordan  
Barranquilla, Colombia  
Battambang, Cambodia  
Concepcion, Chile  
Cebu, Philippines  
Cali, Colombia  
Dares Salaam, Tanzania  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

HoChi Minh City, Vietnam  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
Lagos, Nigeria  
Lima, Peru  
Penang, Malaysia  
Phitsanulok, Thailand  
Pune, India  
Queretaro, Mexico  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (WP)  
SaoPaulo, Brazil (CA)  
Surabaya,Indonesia  
Vinadel Mar, Chile

Mentor Cities: Stockholm, Sweden; San Francisco, USA; San Diego, USA

## EV Welcomes Kyle Jeremiah, New Media/Communications Associate



Kyle Jeremiah joined Energy Vision as Media & Communications Associate in September 2014. Raised in Trinidad and Tobago, as a teenager, he worked for two years as a political reporter for the Trinidad Guardian, the country’s oldest newspaper. He covered government meetings on regional political and economic issues, and interviewed Latin American and Caribbean leaders. His articles were featured in publications such as Latin Petroleum magazine and the United Nations Chronicle quarterly magazine. This work sparked his interest in the environment, social justice, and foreign policy.

Coming to the U.S. in 2009 to attend Hunter College in New York City, Kyle’s student years saw his expanded participation in international fora. These included a UN conference in Melbourne, Australia where NGOs and other stakeholders debated world progress toward the UN’s Millennium Development Goals, the UN Academic Impact where he coordinated efforts to raise awareness of environmental sustainability, and the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs conference in Annapolis, Maryland where international challenges and policy solutions were debated. He was also a social media journalist at Mashable and the UN Foundation’s Social Good Summit in 2012 and 2013.

Kyle interned with Energy Vision in 2013, and joined the staff upon graduation. “I am excited,” he said, “about being part of a team seeking practical solutions to environmental problems and using social media to reach global audiences — from policymakers to students — who can make change happen.”

### *Spotlight on Progress: RNG in New York and Vermont*

Following successful Energy Vision workshops in Rochester, NY (Nov 2013) and Burlington, VT (April 2014) detailing the opportunities and obstacles for turning organic waste into vehicle fuel, we are excited to report measurable progress in each region.

First, in July, it was announced that Aria Energy and Clean Energy Renewable Fuels were collaborating to launch the first RNG transportation project in New York State at the Seneca Meadows landfill in Seneca Falls, NY. Through this partnership, more than 3 million gallons of diesel will be displaced annually with low-carbon RNG produced at the landfill site and sent via pipeline to natural gas refueling stations in California.

Second, in August, Alexander DePillis, Senior Agricultural Development Coordinator at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, reported that the agency had been awarded a grant to develop an on-farm renewable natural gas vehicle fuel project. While details of the grant and the project are not yet available, DePillis said that the dialogue and networking at the April Cow Power workshop led to further discussions, and ultimately to the successful grant proposal.



*EV’s Tomich moderating a panel in Vermont*

Energy Vision was included to discuss the opportunities and obstacles – technological, political, logistical, etc. – to producing and utilizing renewable natural gas in China. This group is now part of an ongoing dialogue.

EV Vice President Matt Tomich joined the U.S. delegation of ten and traveled to Beijing the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>. While there, he participated in three long days of meetings, presentations and social gatherings aimed at fostering research, innovation and collaboration in tackling climate change and air quality in China. One result of the proceedings is that Energy Vision is in discussions with the International Union for Science and Technology Innovation (IUSTI) in Beijing about the translation into Chinese of our guide, *Turning Waste into Vehicle Fuel: A Step-by-Step Guide for Communities*. Tomich, who traveled to Beijing in 2010 while in business school commented, “This experience was eye-opening and starkly different than my last. On the one hand, in just four years, the air quality in Beijing appears to have worsened considerably, to the point where it’s unpleasant to spend much time outside. On the other hand, given the severity of the immediate air pollution problem and China’s role as a greenhouse gas generator, the Chinese government has drastically changed its messaging to reflect these concerns.”

***In Memoriam: C. Howard Hardesty, Jr.***



We are sad to report that Howard Hardesty, a founding board member of Energy Vision, died in his 92<sup>nd</sup> year on April 27 at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida. He was at once a top corporate executive in the energy industry, a skilled energy lawyer and investor, and a far-sighted environmental thinker. He brought wisdom, insight, and humor to our board meetings and is greatly missed. Born and raised in West Virginia, Howard graduated from Duke University, served in World War II, and then returned to West Virginia Law School, from which he graduated in 1949, Order of the Coif. Howard moved into the private sector in 1963, and by 1978, he had risen to Vice Chairman of the Continental Oil Company. He traveled widely as a leading spokesperson for the energy industry and was out front in grappling with its environmental challenges.

His interests and civic affiliations were wide ranging and included being a trustee emeritus of Duke University and chair and member of the West Virginia University Foundation Board of Directors. At age 92, he was still active, engaged in energy ventures, travel and golf. Howard was deeply respected by his fellow board members at Energy Vision. He brought thoughtfulness, kindness, and keen insight to our deliberations about the future of corporate responsibility.

**Joanna D. Underwood**  
*Chair and President*

**Cynthia Adler**  
*Actor and Writer*

**Michael S. Gruen**  
*Attorney at Law*  
*President, The City Club of New York*

**Joan C. Pearlman**  
*Publications Director*  
*Professional Women*  
*Photographers*

**Brendan Sexton**  
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*Former DSNY*  
*Commissioner*

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EV is a national non-profit organization that analyzes and promotes ways to make a swift transition to pollution-free renewable energy sources and to the clean, petroleum-free transportation fuels of the future.

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