



Drive Clean Indiana

Milestones



June 15, 1999 – Founded as the 71st U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Coalition.

2005 – Husband and wife Carl and Lorrie Lisek – Vice President and President of Legacy Environmental Services, respectively – become co-coordinators of South Shore Clean Cities.

October 2007 – Carl and Lorrie Lisek honored by the late U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar as Indiana Energy Patriots in 2007.

2008 – South Shore Clean Cities became a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Midwest Clean Diesel Coalition board member, one of just two from the state of Indiana (Indiana Department of Environmental Management being the other).

2009 – Establishes offices in the Purdue Technology Center and Research Park in Crown Point.

2010 – Carl Lisek becomes a board member of the Washington DC based Transportation Energy Partners.

2011 – Lorrie Lisek becomes Executive Director of Wisconsin Clean Cities, covering the entire state of Wisconsin. Carl Lisek becomes the sole Executive Director of South Shore Clean Cities.

2012 – Northern Indiana Green Fleet program established. South Shore Clean Cities manages the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC's) and Michiana Area Council of Government's (MACOG's) Green Fleet Programs, which aim to improve the environmental performance of fleets in the two metropolitan planning organization's respective territories.

2012 – Received Quality of Life Council's Outstanding Achievement Award.

2012 – Received U.S. Department of Energy's Top Overall Improvement in Petroleum Savings Award.

2012-2016 – Led NIPSCO's IN-Charge EV Project, including the successful deployment and management of more than 250 home charging stations and 159 public charging stations in 60 locations throughout Northern Indiana.

2013 – Receives Indiana Small Business Development EDGE Award.

2013-2014 – Manages the BP Cleaner Air through Diesel Emissions Reductions (BP CADER) grant program, which provided \$450,000 through a competitive grant process aimed at reducing diesel emissions in Lake County.

2013 – Carl Lisek hosted a radio show with the beginning of The Green Commuter on Lakeshore Public Radio, which runs until 2015. The show became Green Radio Network on WIMS AM from 2016-17 then Green Fleet Radio on Lakeshore Public Radio in 2018 through May of 2022.

2014 – Received the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators Award.

2014 – Received NIPSCO Environmental Stewardship Award.

2014-2016 – Managed NIRPC's Solarize NWI program aimed at increasing solar usage in the Region.

2015 – Both Carl and Lorrie Lisek are inducted into the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Hall of Fame.

2015-2017 – Partnered on Midwest DRIVES project of U.S. Department of Energy for 18 Indiana counties, aimed at putting more fleet drivers behind the wheel of alternative fuel vehicles for extended test drives to increase adoption by fleets.

October 2016 – Carl Lisek's monthly column in The Times of Northwest Indiana begins, highlighting and examining topical, timely issues in the sustainable transportation and energy realm, runs through April of 2022.

2016 – Partnered on the U.S. Department of Energy's Michigan to Montana I-94 Clean Fuel Corridor Project for Northern Indiana counties, aimed at ensuring the 1,500-mile span of I-94 from Port Huron, Michigan to Billings, Montana will have adequate fueling sites to serve sustainable transportation driver needs.

2016 – Partnered on Midwest EVOLVE project for 18 Indiana counties aimed at increasing education and implementation of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in the Midwest.

February 2017 – Moved to 123 N. Main St. on the historic Crown Point downtown square.

2017 – Unused funds remaining in the BP CADER project go to the School City of East Chicago to introduce propane buses into the fleet, marking the first use of propane school buses in the Region.

July 2018 – Dunes Learning Center unveils new propane-powered school bus for use in transporting students participating in its environmental education projects. Vehicle made possible through grant acquired in partnership with South Shore Clean Cities.

2018 – City of Hobart adopts all-electric Nissan LEAF for events coordinator, installs EV charging stations at City Hall and celebrates the purchase of three compressed natural gas-fueled refuse trucks and the construction of a compressed natural gas fueling station and state-of-the-art compressed natural gas maintenance garage. All of which was made possible through partnerships with South Shore Clean Cities & NIRPC's Green Fleet program.

November 2018 – Honored at the National Clean Cities Coordinator Training Workshop for having the most outreach events of any of the nation's nearly 100 Clean Cities coalitions.

2019 - Drive Clean Indiana is pleased to partner with The Center for Sustainable Energy, along with 12 other Clean Cities coalitions and a host of other project partners on the Vehicle Charging Innovations for Multi-Unit Dwelling (VCI-MUD) project, a three-year project which began in 2019 with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office.

September 2021 - Congressman Frank J. Mrvan announced two grant awards for South Shore Clean Cities (SSCC) under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program. The two EPA grant awards totaled \$7.8 million and were used to assist the SSCC in its efforts to reduce diesel emissions throughout the region. Specifically, the funding was used to promote the use of clean vehicles, including clean diesel refuse trucks and electric, compressed natural gas, and renewable natural gas trucks.

2021 - As a U.S. Department of Energy designated Clean Cities Coalition, South Shore Clean Cities was invited to submit an operating plan for designation as a statewide coalition. The U.S. Department of Energy selected South Shore Clean Cities to manage the new statewide Clean Cities program, Drive Clean Indiana.

2022 - Official name change to Drive Clean Indiana.

2022 - Crown Point Community School Corporation added an electric school bus to its fleet, making it the first district in Northwest Indiana with the technology. The fully electric school bus was purchased with the help of grant funds acquired in partnership with Drive Clean Indiana.

2023 - Drive Clean Indiana in partnership with IDEM and the Indiana Utility Group unveil GOEVIN: A statewide initiative to Drive Electric Vehicle Adoption.

2023 - Drive Clean Indiana has worked on partnerships to include over \$200 million of grant funds.

2023 - Drive Clean Indiana partners with DRIVE Electric USA project in Indiana. The project is part of DRIVE Electric USA, a partnership of U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities coalitions working to significantly advance electric vehicle (EV) adoption in their states.

2024 - GOEVIN announces that in the spring and summer of 2024, 61 chargers across the state will be available to the public.

As we look back on the last 25 years, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunities, challenges, and achievements that have shaped our story. Inspired by our past successes, we eagerly embrace the future, poised to write the next chapter of our legacy with passion, purpose, and unwavering determination.