



**SOUTH CAROLINA HYDROGEN
AND FUEL CELL ALLIANCE**

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**South Carolina hydrogen initiatives receive critical funding
through legislative action**

Columbia, S.C. – South Carolina has taken another step toward securing the future well being of our economy, our energy supplies and a healthy environment for our families by enacting the Hydrogen Infrastructure Development Act (S. 243). The Act provides up to \$15 million over the next three years by creating the Hydrogen Infrastructure Development Fund in the State Treasury.

Five million dollars have been allocated to the fund for the first year and will be leveraged with other government and private industry funds to advance the commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, to encourage the development of partnerships between state groups and others outside the state and to promote hydrogen and fuel cell development and usage.

“Our leaders at the capitol are finding ways to invest in our future with the passage of the Hydrogen Infrastructure Development Act,” said Shannon Baxter-Clemmons, Executive Director of the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance.

Some claim that South Carolina sends \$1.5 billion a year (at \$65 per barrel) to OPEC for our transportation energy, \$4 million a day.

“This situation is not sustainable,” said Baxter-Clemmons. “Hydrogen and fuel cells are part of a strategy to secure our energy future. That’s why I’m also very happy to see tax credits for hydrogen and fuel cells as well as other near term technologies.”

The Act allows a broad sales tax exemption for consumers purchasing hydrogen and fuel cell related technologies as well as other alternative energy vehicles. Tax credits are available for consumers purchasing electric, hybrid or ethanol powered vehicles and incentives are provided to people building ethanol and biodiesel facilities.

In addition to sales tax exemptions, taxpayers can also make contributions to the Hydrogen Infrastructure Development Fund and are allowed a tax credit equal to twenty-five percent of a qualified contribution.

“The Hydrogen Infrastructure Development Act is an important step toward breaking America’s addiction to carbon fuels, especially foreign oil, and it is especially important to South Carolina, because we produce no oil and no coal,” said John Clark, Director of the South Carolina Energy Office.

The South Carolina Research Authority will be responsible for managing and distributing the \$15 million in funding used to create a sustainable foundation upon which a hydrogen economy may develop across South Carolina.

"We look forward to collaborating with our government, industry, and university partners to rapidly and judiciously implement hydrogen energy value chain projects which maximize knowledge economy company formation and job creation in SC," said Bill Mahoney, SCRA CEO.

The South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance is a public-private collaboration for cooperative and coordinated utilization of resources in the state used to advance the commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

Founded in January 2006, the Alliance was created by six core members dedicated to hydrogen and fuel cell initiatives: the Center for Hydrogen Research, Clemson University, the Savannah River National Laboratory, SC Department of Commerce, S.C. State University and the University of South Carolina.

For more information on the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance, please visit www.SCHFCA.org.

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