
A SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY REVOLUTION

TWIN TRANSIT TAKES CENTER STAGE AT RENEWABLE HYDROGEN ALLIANCE CONFERENCE



The nation is at a critical juncture when it comes to addressing energy independence and transitioning to sustainable energy sources. In this pursuit, the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance (RHA) recently hosted its annual conference, in Portland, Oregon, that brought together experts and leaders in the field to discuss the potential of renewable hydrogen as a clean energy solution for the Pacific Northwest.

Among the notable presentations were those given by Lewis County leaders Joe Clark, Executive Director of Twin Transit, and 20th District Representative Peter Abbarno, both of whom shared valuable insights into the promising future of renewable hydrogen.

Joe Clark and Twin Transit: Pioneering Hydrogen-Powered Public Transportation

One of the standout presentations at the RHA conference was delivered by Joe Clark, the Executive Director of Twin Transit, a public transportation agency that is garnering nationwide recognition for its innovative approach to sustainable transit solutions. Clark, a recognized figure in the clean energy sector, shared his vision for a sustainable public transportation future powered by hydrogen and battery electric fleet. He emphasized the importance of creating a comprehensive infrastructure for hydrogen fueling stations to support the adoption of hydrogen-powered vehicles. Clark's presentation centered around the transformative impact of hydrogen fuel cells in the realm of public transportation.

Twin Transit has been at the forefront of adopting hydrogen fuel cell technology to power its buses, effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to cleaner air in their community. Clark highlighted the numerous benefits of hydrogen-powered transit, including zero-emission operations, longer ranges, and quicker refueling times compared to diesel buses. He also discussed the infrastructure challenges and investments required to expand the adoption of hydrogen-powered vehicles on a larger scale.

Clark's insights shed light on the potential for hydrogen to revolutionize not only public transportation but also other sectors such as freight and logistics, making a substantial contribution to achieving global sustainability goals.

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The Twin Transit Port of Chehalis Hydrogen Fueling Station

The Twin Transit Port of Chehalis Hydrogen Fueling Station represents a significant milestone in the development of hydrogen infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. Over the course of the last three years, Twin Transit has been assessing different models and technologies for its station, the first of its kind in Washington State. The Port of Chehalis Fueling Station will be located strategically along the I-5 Corridor, a major transportation route. This fueling station aims to serve as a critical link in the emerging hydrogen economy and will provide hydrogen fueling for Twin Transit hydrogen fuel cell buses, which will arrive in February of 2024. The project is in its final stages of permitting and is reviewing requests for proposals. Construction on the station is expected to begin January 2024.

Key Features of the Fueling Station:

- **Hydrogen Production:** The station employs on-site electrolysis to produce hydrogen from renewable energy sources. This approach ensures a clean and sustainable source of hydrogen, reducing the carbon footprint associated with transportation.
- **Strategic Location:** Situated at the heart of the Pacific Northwest's transportation network, the Chehalis station is ideally located to support long-haul trucking and passenger vehicles. This strategic placement promotes the adoption of hydrogen as a viable alternative to conventional fuels.
- **Scalability:** The station is designed with scalability in mind, accommodating future expansion as demand for hydrogen-powered vehicles grows. This scalability ensures that the infrastructure can evolve alongside the industry.
- **Economic Benefits:** Beyond its environmental advantages, the Twin Transit Port of Chehalis Hydrogen Fueling Station is expected to bring economic benefits to the region by creating jobs and fostering local innovation in hydrogen technology.

20th District Representative Peter Abbarno: The Role of Government in Hydrogen Transition

Representative Peter Abbarno, representing the 20th District and serving as the co-chair for the Hydrogen Caucus, brought a unique perspective to the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance conference. As a leader in hydrogen policy and alternative fuels, Abbarno highlighted the role of government in supporting and accelerating the transition to renewable hydrogen.

Abbarno has been instrumental in ensuring Washington State is viewed as an international leader in hydrogen. In March of 2023, Abbarno spoke in favor of his measure House Bill 1729, creating and expanding tax incentives for the research, development, production, and sale of hydrogen fuel products in Washington state.

Abbarno emphasized the importance of policy frameworks and government incentives to spur investments in renewable hydrogen infrastructure and technology.



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He discussed legislative efforts aimed at promoting the growth of the hydrogen industry, such as tax incentives for hydrogen production and distribution, research and development grants, and partnerships with private companies to scale up hydrogen projects.

Furthermore, Abbarno acknowledged the need for collaboration between government entities, industry stakeholders, and environmental advocates to create a sustainable and efficient hydrogen ecosystem. He highlighted the potential of hydrogen to provide economic opportunities in rural communities like those in the 20th District, where hydrogen production and distribution could become a vital part of the local economy.

Key Takeaways from the RHA Conference

The Renewable Hydrogen Alliance conference left attendees with several key takeaways:

- **Hydrogen as a Game-Changer:** The conference showcased how hydrogen has the potential to transform multiple sectors, from transportation to energy production, and play a pivotal role in achieving global sustainability goals.
- **Public-Private Collaboration:** The collaboration between organizations like Twin Transit and government representatives like Peter Abbarno illustrates the importance of partnerships between the public and private sectors in advancing renewable hydrogen initiatives.
- **Policy Matters:** Government policies and incentives are essential drivers for the growth of the renewable hydrogen industry. Legislative support can stimulate investments, promote research and development, and ensure a smooth transition to hydrogen-based solutions.
- **Community Engagement:** The conference emphasized the role of local communities in the hydrogen transition, especially in areas where hydrogen projects can generate economic opportunities, education and career pathways, and improve environmental quality.

The Renewable Hydrogen Alliance conference served as a crucial platform for discussions on renewable hydrogen's potential and the pathways to its widespread adoption. As the nation continues to grapple with energy independence and climate change, conferences like RHA are instrumental in fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, driving us closer to a future where renewable hydrogen plays a central role in our clean energy landscape.

