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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## East Tennessee Alternative Fuel Leaders Recognized in Knoxville

*City of Kingsport, Eastman Chemical Company, and Black Bear Solar Institute  
recognized with award for outstanding leadership in petroleum use reductions  
and emissions reductions.*

**Knoxville, TN** – East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCleanFuels) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2013 Davy Crockett Volunteer Spirit Award—an accolade presented to alternative fuel leaders in the region. This year’s three recipients—a municipal government, a Fortune 500 Company, and a local nonprofit—have all benefited their communities, state and nation by reducing petroleum consumption, improving air quality, and educating the public on the benefits of cleaner fuels. The three awardees are the City of Kingsport, Eastman Chemical Company, and Black Bear Solar Institute (BBSI) and were all recognized at a luncheon in Knoxville on Tuesday.

Jonathan Overly, ETCleanFuels’ Executive Director, said in praising their volunteer spirit, “These three organizations have distinguished themselves over a period of years as courageous champions of alternative fuels in our region. The City of Kingsport, Eastman and Black Bear Solar Institute have each thought strategically, engaged with experts, endeavored to lead where others have not, and gained regional and/or national recognition for their work and insight.”

The City of Kingsport is being recognized for its continuing support of alternative fuels and, in particular, its leadership as Tennessee’s largest, municipal propane fleets. In 2008, the City of Kingsport set a course for using cleaner fuels has gradually been growing their propane fleet, including the city’s police cruisers which operate on a bi-fuel propane system. Last year the city saved roughly \$1 per gallon by using propane. In addition to propane, the city has also had the foresight to include plug-in electric vehicles in its fleet and install public electric charging stations for its citizens. As fleets around the region begin their own conversion initiatives, they can look to the City of Kingsport as an example and learn from their leadership and experience.

Eastman is a long time supporter of alternative fuels and the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition. Years of steady progress and a willingness to explore emerging technologies have positioned this Fortune 500 Company as East Tennessee’s largest user of biodiesel (over 610,000 gallons of biodiesel blends in 2012 alone). In addition to regular fleet use, Eastman also has the notable designation of being the only company in Tennessee to intentionally run its locomotives on this cleaner, more sustainable fuel. As many other organizations and individuals are beginning to do, Eastman has also incorporated electric and plug-in electric vehicles into its businesses, signaling a broad interest in transportation efficiencies and clean air solutions.



*ETCleanFuels has been a  
designated Clean Cities  
Program member since 2004.*

Tourism and conservation are important elements of the region's economy and heritage, and Black Bear Solar Institute, located 1.5 miles from the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, acutely recognizes the importance of air quality to the wildlife and people of the area. For the benefit of visitors and residents, BBSI has demonstrated leadership by working to create a "Green Gateway to the Smokies" by operating 26 free, public electric vehicle chargers along the route entrance through Blount County. Additionally, BBSI has repeatedly partnered with ETCleanFuels to work on electric vehicle projects in addition to collaborating on educational events in the community. Last but not least, they are undertaking the development of a new, sustainable bear rehabilitation facility in Townsend that will incorporate solar power and EV charging for vehicles. Through their efforts, they have made Townsend the densest EV charging city in the U.S. on a per capita basis!

**For more information about East Tennessee Clean Fuels:** <http://www.ETCleanFuels.org>

**About East TN Clean Fuels Coalition:** *The East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCleanFuels) is nonprofit 501(c)3 working proactively with regional fleets and citizens to reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve regional air quality and sustainability. It is a voluntary effort and is built on partners working together to create change in East Tennessee.*



**Images 1 & 2. Left: City of Kingsport Fleet Manager Steve Hightower stands next to one of Kingsport's 13 bi-fuel (propane/gasoline) police cruisers. Right: L-R, Mayor Dennis Phillips and Hightower receive the award from ETCleanFuels Director Jonathan Overly.**



**Images 3 & 4. Left: L-R, Steve Gossett and Jeff Berry of Eastman Chemical Company stand next to one Eastman's six electric vehicles. Right: Berry, the Eastman fleet manager, receives the award from Overly.**



**Images 5 & 6. Left: Bob Harris of Black Bear Solar Institute shows the award as he stands next to BBSI's Nissan Leaf and the electric charging stations at their office in Townsend. Right: Harris speaks to students at Alcoa Elementary School in 2013 about electric vehicles.**