



# MEMBER NEWS

## South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance Shows State Fair Audience that Hydrogen is a Gas

By Mark Sieckman, on behalf of the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance

Exhibitors in the Commercial Exhibit Halls of the 2006 South Carolina State Fair cover a wide array of intriguing trades searching to advance their mission in the eyes of the general public. Among the smells of deep-fried Oreo cookies, funnel cakes and corn dog stands the Ruff Building, home to vendors of anything from velvet paintings to comical pet costumes.

But nestled between the booths of Smokin' Joe's Beef Jerky and the South Carolina Probation and Parole Office sits the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance, a nonprofit organization serving as the primary facilitator of hydrogen initiatives in South Carolina.

For twelve days, the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance (SCHFCA)

managed a booth demonstrating the benefits of alternative energy with the help of Engineering students from the University of South Carolina. Through use of hydrogen-powered toys, including Horizon Fuel Cell's H-Racer, children and adults were introduced to this emerging energy source with a unique hands-on experience. A hydrogen-powered toy rocket also provided an exciting outing for children to see how hydrogen could blast the toy nearly 200 feet in the air.

The exhibit garnered reactions from many enthusiastic school groups and the SCHFCA was pleased to find interest in hydrogen and fuel cells from local schools on the high school and elementary levels. Students from a local middle school were very intrigued by the exhibit and some

even considered themselves seasoned professionals on fuel cells as many of them said they completed science projects on the subject.

Adults were similarly impressed by the presentation, though most noted they were more interested in reducing the cost of fossil fuels than a near-future switch to hydrogen energy. But nearly everyone was optimistic that they would see hydrogen as a major energy source within the next ten years.

By attracting visitors with free promotional items such as stress balls and temporary tattoos, SCHFCA effectively attracted the attention of the State Fair audience and everyone was eager to learn how to help. News of the 2009 National Hydrogen Association Conference in Columbia excited visitors that were eager to see the changes the city would be making in anticipation of the conference. Plans include numerous fueling stations and hydrogen fuel cell buses as well as a unique fuel cell research district under construction by the University of South Carolina.

For more information on the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance, please visit [www.schydrogen.org](http://www.schydrogen.org).



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[www.HydrogenAssociation.org/general](http://www.HydrogenAssociation.org/general)

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