

The Future of Transportation Moves Forward

Transportation/Energy conference at Monona Terrace focuses on alternatives.

For most vehicles, to “move forward” requires untold amounts of energy derived from fossil fuels. But for the student organizers of “Moving Forward: Powering our Transportation Future,” this statement is destined to be a relic of the past. At their conference held Nov. 5 at Monona Terrace, the group hopes to discuss and showcase alternative transportation options that use less energy, and emit fewer pollutants and greenhouse gases.

Presented by Energy Hub, a UW-Madison student organization, the conference will encompass everything from the challenges of optimizing the power grid for the integration of millions of plug-in electric cars to understanding the supply chain for biomass fuels, which starts in a field or forest, and ending in a fuel tank or furnace, with many points in between

“Our plan is to touch on everything from local issues to global trends,” says Nathan Pinney, a UW-Madison Materials Science graduate student and co-chair for Energy Hub.

The conference is held on Nov. 5 from 8am to 5pm in the upper level of Monona Terrace. It's open to all UW-Madison students and is presented free of charge. Students must pre-register online at the Energy Hub website.

Running concurrently with the conference is the Alt-Vehicle Expo on the lower level. From 11am to 7pm on Nov. 5, this event features hybrid-electric, plug-in electric, and biofuel-powered cars and trucks, electric motorcycles and scooters from the technological frontrunners in the field. The Alt-Vehicle Expo is free and open to the public.

The Alt-Vehicle Expo will feature the latest technology from Smart USA, Columbia ParCar, Toyota, Honda, Volkswagen, and Zero Motorcycles. Aside from new vehicles, attendees can also learn about alternative-transportation options already available in the Madison area, including Community Car and Green Cab. Cyclists can practice loading a bike onto a demonstration model of the rack found on all Madison Metro buses.

“The goal of the conference and the expo is to get more people hopping on their bikes or using mass transit, or choosing to buy a more efficient car and making more efficient trips.” says Pinney. “That's what Energy Hub has done for the past three years and will continue to do.”

About Energy Hub

Energy Hub's mission is to help students, researchers, and organizations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison connect to energy by encouraging exploration, discussion and planning for the future. It puts energy front and center by generating student opportunities, enabling collaborative initiatives on campus and promoting energy literacy.

For more information, please visit <http://www.uwehub.org> or contact Nathan Pinney at npinney@wisc.edu or 608-890-1814