



President's Corner

Is Your City Prepared for the Energy Tsunami?

**By: Matt Zone, Cleveland City Council
 President of the Northeast Ohio City Council Association**

Local governments are continually challenged with the call for increased public service while dealing with a finite amount of tax revenue. Is your city properly prepared for the energy tsunami that is coming our way? If not, local officials need to begin the necessary planning for controlling their municipal energy consumption, because the toll it will take on our municipal budgets will be devastating.

Global reserves of oil and natural gas are finite, and sufficient substitutes are unlikely to be available in the immediate future. It has recently been reported that U.S. oil and natural gas production have peaked and are now in decline, ensuring that our nation's continued and growing dependence on oil and natural gas imported from politically unstable regions will increase.

Industry experts believe that the world has already arrived at, or will soon arrive at the peak of global oil production, which will be followed by an inevitable decline in available supply thereafter. The United States Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory has stated that, "The problems associated with world oil production peaking will not be temporary, and past 'energy crisis' experience will provide relatively little guidance. The challenge of oil peaking deserves immediate, serious attention, if risks are to be fully understood and mitigation begun on a timely basis".

Each of our communities, and its citizens and businesses depend on oil and natural gas for our economic welfare. Most of our critical activities, including transportation and food supply are a large majority of our disposable income, and they are uniquely tied to fossil fuels.

The citizens and businesses of Northeast Ohio are not currently aware of the full implications of an impending decline in oil production and would greatly benefit from an objective source of information on this topic. That is why I am encouraging each of our NOCCA member cities to adopt a Local Action Plan for your communities.

Cities such as Portland, Oregon; San Francisco and Oakland, California; Austin, Texas and the City of Cleveland, among other cities, have convened task forces to examine the effects of rising energy cost. Your city should consider convening one as well. If you do, it should include members from your city's Departments of Public Utilities, Finance, Public Service, City Planning and Health, as well as other experts. Your committee should examine the best strategies to mitigate the impacts of declining energy supplies in areas including, but not limited to: transportation, business and home energy use, water, food security, health care, communications, and land use planning.

This exercise will give cities the opportunity of educating the public about this issue in order to create positive behavior change among businesses and residents that will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. By doing so, your residents and businesses will be better prepared, your municipal budgets balanced and Mother Earth will thank you!

**PLAN TO ATTEND
 THE *Summer* FORUM**

**THURSDAY,
 September 25,
 2008**

**Sterle's Slovenian
 Country House
 1401 East 55th Street
 Cleveland, Ohio**

*Does Your Community
 Need New Revenue?
 Planning and Sharing for
 Regional Growth*

Special Guest Speakers:
 Revenue Study Leadership

- Mayor William A. Currin,
 City of Hudson*
- Mayor Bruce H. Akers,
 City of Pepper Pike*
- Mayor Michael K. Lyons,
 Village of Richfield*

Registration	5:30 pm
Dinner	6:30 pm
Program	7:00 pm
Questions & Answers	8:00 pm

**MEMBERS & ONE INVITED CITY
 EMPLOYEE WHO RSVPs BEFORE
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008
 ARE FREE!**

**Non-Member/Spouse/Guest:
 \$25 for dinner
 ~ Cash Bar ~**

**Contact Linda Young
 at 216.398.9941
 or Email: lcross000@cox.net
 to make your reservation(s).**

Failure to cancel a registration 24 hours prior to the event will result in billing of members, guests and non-members.

Bennett's Municipal Corner: Cleveland's Lakefront: Commerce, Development, Wildlife Habitat by Steven D. Bennett, Immediate Past President, University Heights

(Based on Port Authority Public Meeting 06/17/2008 on Cleveland's Near Westside and Follow-Up to 09/20/07 NOCCA Forum on the Port Authority as an Economic Engine.)

Lakefront Historical Prelude: Originally the Port of Cleveland did not have a lake waterfront. The north side of the city ended on a cliff that dropped some 60 feet or more to a small rocky beach wide enough for railroad tracks. The Port's entry to the Lake Erie was a winding valley carved out by the Cuyahoga River that meandered its way to Lake Erie. The straight canal directly to the lake just north of Shooters was dug by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1820's. The bell now hung on the southeast corner of Warrensville and Cedar Roads in University Heights came from the May Company Building roof in Euclid Avenue just east off Public Square. It was used to herald the arrival of a ship in the harbor below in the flats. After the construction of break wall out into the lake, Cleveland's Lakefront port began as a landfill, refuse dump and dredged materials from the Cuyahoga River bottom. Public recreational access took off with the construction of an Olympic sized stadium (Cleveland Municipal Stadium) that hoped to capture the 1932 Olympics. That was followed by Cleveland's Great Lakes Exposition 1936-1937. From 1930's photographs you can see that the Cargo Port of Cleveland with heavy rail access was located just west of the stadium as it still is today. The environmental cleanup of the lakefront beginning in the 1970's has turned Cleveland's lakefront from landfills to a prime location that houses the Rock 'n'Roll Hall of Fame, the Great Lakes Science Center, an airport and even wildlife areas. Today there are varying view points and competing interests regarding the further development of Cleveland's Lakefront to include Cargo Port needs, upscale housing, casinos, entertainment centers, and wildlife sanctuaries.

Commerce Solution: Moving Cargo Port to E. 55th Street Lakefront Area: Soon small container ships will take containers from larger container ships from ocean ports like Halifax, Nova Scotia, directly to Great Lakes ports. Rising fuel costs and congested rail lines have made waterborne traffic more economical for some time to come. For Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority the location of cargo port on the lakefront is essential for northeast Ohio obtaining its rightful share of both northeast Ohio destined cargo and throughput to be distributed to other Midwest locations. The Port's Lake Erie location does not add extra miles to waterborne traffic as would ports such as Chicago which requires going north through Lake St. Clair/Lake Huron and South on Lake Michigan. The port will need area for expansion, better truck and rail access, and a free trade zone to be competitive. Movement of the Cargo Port to an E. 55th Street location will accomplish this and leave the current site west of Browns stadium for development.

For the Port Authority's efforts to be really successful, though, the Cleveland-Northeast Ohio business community must gear up itself to attract as much container cargo as possible that is destined for the area rather than just arriving to be shipped elsewhere. Cargo destined for the area will need services, assembly, manufacturing, and/or value added manufacturing that provides jobs and economic growth. Northeast Ohio governments need to act together to assist the business community in its efforts.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**by Dr. Carmen Centanni,
Orange Village Council**

As your community finalizes its 2009 budget and tries to pinch pennies for the coming year, please remember to include \$400 for your annual NOCCA membership. This is a very small price

to pay for all of your council representatives to participate in the ONLY area wide council association dedicated to the education, sharing and resolution problems all of our communities. We are ending this year with approximately 300 members from over 40 area communities!

NOCCA's four quarterly forums offer current information and networking opportunities with fellow council people regarding topics such as the foreclosure crisis, infrastructure problems, tax sharing and regional zoning issues, to name a few. Our new collaboration with the Fund for Our Economic Future places our local communities in a positive position to help plan the future of our region.

As current members, we need you to stay involved, attend AND participate in our forums and encourage other community leaders to participate by joining NOCCA. We need everyone to work together for the benefit of the entire region!

Please visit our website www.noccassoc.org

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**P.O. Box 34044
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Linda Cross Young,
Administrative Secretary
216-398-9941

Email: lcross000@cox.net