



# The Chronicle

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## *Hydrogen Car Road Tour 2009*



*Learn more about the  
Hydrogen Road Tour 2009  
[www.hydrogenroadtour.com](http://www.hydrogenroadtour.com)*

A caravan of cars rolled through Medford recently as part of the Hydrogen Road Tour 2009 sponsored locally by Rogue Valley Clean Cities. Traveling 1,700 miles from Chula Vista, Calif., to Vancouver, British Columbia, the touring vehicles included a Daimler F-Cell, Chevy Equinox FCV, Honda FCX Clarity, Hyundai Tucson FCEV, Kia Borrego FCEV, Nissan X-Trail, Toyota FCHV and Volkswagen Tiguan HyMotion.

"The Hydrogen car tour was amazingly successful," said Sue Kupillas, coordinator of the Rogue Valley

Clean Cities Coalition. "What fun and good coverage. Many thanks to Bruce Hoebet and Dave Sanderson of Rogue Registry for hosting the event. They provided a wonderful reception in the lobby and prepared a first-class dinner for the 45 members of the tour. The event drew many community people interested in alternative fuel vehicles."

KMED Radio host Bill Meyer interviewed Roy Kim of the California Fuel Cell Partnership, traveling with tour sponsor Power Tech Labs of Canada. Listen to the 11-minute radio interview at [www.roguevalleycleancities.org](http://www.roguevalleycleancities.org) or [www.csaplanning.net](http://www.csaplanning.net).

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*Expect inventiveness and efficiency*

## Preparing for the future

Changes are coming in the world of energy and those who prepare will have a smoother transition. That was the message of Roger Woodworth, vice president of sustainable energy solutions for Avista Utilities speaking at the Chamber of Commerce of Medford/Jackson County Forum on June 8. Energy consumption and prices will continue to rise, partly because of increasing demand across the globe, especially in Asia. China's coal consumption exceeds all other countries' use of fossil fuels.

"One-third of the world's population woke up wanting to share our lifestyle and conveniences and that requires energy," Woodworth said.

Other factors driving up the cost of energy will be the stimulus package's \$61.3 billion dedicated to energy projects, as well as the cost to maintain the nation's \$440 billion investment in electric plants. "Our current system is 100 years old and it could triple the rate base just to keep things the way they are. When we put in a power pole today, it costs much more than it did 50 years ago," Woodworth said.

But this is where the human dynamic will help, he said. As costs increase, people will become more engaged in the process. They will become more energy efficient and more inventive. "People will say, 'If that's what you want to do, I've got a better way.'" The number of patents involving clean energy technology has skyrocketed, he said. So have investments in those ideas.

In response to an audience question about the availability of natural gas, Woodworth said there is ample natural gas on the planet, based on calculations by the United States Geological Survey. "It's one of the cleanest-burning fossil fuels," Woodworth said. "But getting access is the key." (View a national gas and oil assessment interactive map at <http://energy.cr.usgs.gov/oilgas/noga>) The LNG pipeline would provide an important means of transmission, he said. "We need the pipelines to diversify our supply source to help keep energy costs down." Read the Mail Tribune's coverage of his speech at [www.mailtribune.com](http://www.mailtribune.com). View the slides from Woodworth's powerpoint presentation on the Clean Cities website:

[www.roguevalleycleancities.org](http://www.roguevalleycleancities.org)



*RVCC board member Steve Vincent with Roger Woodworth of Avista*

*The Chronicle* is a monthly publication of Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition. The Coalition is made up of businesses and agencies with a shared goal of reducing the nation's dependence on imported oil. Contact Sue Kupillas, coordinator, by email, [sue@roguevalleycleancities.org](mailto:sue@roguevalleycleancities.org). Learn more from the website: [www.roguevalleycleancities.org](http://www.roguevalleycleancities.org)