



AABE®

All ABout Energy

The American Association of Blacks in Energy® – Atlanta Chapter
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<http://aabe.org/atlanta>



AABE ATLANTA CHAPTER MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

AABE Atlanta July Meeting

The Chapter hosted a networking event at the Georgia Power Company (GPC) Park Pavilion on July 10th. The Chapter sponsored a picnic for its members and encouraged attendees to get to know each other on a professional basis. **Emelyne Mosier** of GPC's Economic Development department facilitated the program.

Two AABE Atlanta Chapter Meetings in August

The Chapter will hold two meetings this month at Georgia Power facilities. On Thursday, August 14th the Atlanta Chapter will have a Career Focus program at the Georgia Power Company (GPC) banquet room, 241 Ralph McGill Blvd in downtown Atlanta. The topic is "Future Career Demands in the Energy and Utility Industry." Guest speakers include **Jerome Richard**, Sourcing Strategist for GPC and **Ira Pearl**, VP of Engineering & Construction for AGL.

On Wednesday, August 20th the AABE Atlanta Satellite Chapter will hold a meeting to expose our members to this year's Chapter Committees initiatives at the GPC Customer Care Center (CCC), 2500 **Patrick Henry** Parkway in McDonough. We will focus on the goals of our BEAM, TOUCH, and Mentoring Committees with presentations from their Co-

Chairs. Recruitment of volunteers to serve on these committees is requested. To RSVP for both meetings, please contact AABE Atlanta Chapter Secretary, **Valerie Harris** (GPC-CCC).

Black History Maker Presenters Needed

Each month the Chapter conducts a *Black History Maker* 5-minute presentation during our general meetings. We are seeking individuals that will help present pioneers in the energy industry. To volunteer, please contact the AABE Atlanta Chapter Assistant Treasurer, **Olivia Parks-Woods** (SCS).

AABE is YOU and ME!

The Officers and Committee Chairs of the AABE Atlanta Chapter held a "Visioneering" board meeting about the future of the local organization on July 24th. The meeting covered methods in energizing the membership to participate in committees and attend meetings. It also reviewed our Chapter goals (listed on page 11) and expectations by committed leadership. We are proud to say that the Chapter has achieved six out of eight goals so far this year.

There is a lot more work to be done. Energy is a complex issue that affects all of us. Natural resources, fuel prices and the environment remain prominent subjects in the news and in the Presidential race. AABE serves as a resource to the community to

help them understand the dynamics of the industry and the environment. We have exciting projects in development for the upcoming months and want YOU to help us take AABE to the next level.

Our leadership asks that all members who are interested in volunteering in AABE's committees, serving as co-chairs or have recommendations to help us achieve our mission, to please contact our Chapter President **Cordell Carter** (AGL) at ccarter@agresources.com. We cannot do it all without you.

Help Our Children Make the Right CHOICES



AABE and GPC will begin its annual *CHOICES* mentoring program throughout two metropolitan area high schools. Volunteers are needed to participate in educating 9th and 10th graders about life skills, career choices and leadership during the school calendar from September 2008 to May 2009. Mentors will be required to participate in one class period per month. **Booker T. Washington** High School (pictured above) and a Henry/Clayton County school (CCC) are part of the program.

Mentoring is a sub-committee of the Chapter's Taking Our Unbroken Commitment Home (TOUCH) initiative. Help prepare our youth for the future. For more information, please contact AABE Mentoring Committee Co-Chairs [Nevada Weatherspoon](#) (GPC) and [John Moore](#) (GPC).

AABE CCC School Drive



The GPC Customer Care Center (CCC) AABE Satellite Chapter will conduct a charity school drive from July 28th to August 4th. The CCC Chapter seeks to donate school supplies such as book bags, pencils, and notebooks for local Henry County elementary school students. Monetary donations will also be accepted on an ongoing basis.

The state of Georgia is offering a sales tax holiday on school supplies, clothing and computers from Thursday, July 31st to Sunday, August 3rd. The Chapter will provide a collection bin in the Georgia Power CCC cafeteria located at 2500 **Patrick Henry** Parkway in McDonough. For more information, please contact the AABE Satellite Chapter Coordinator, [Shelby Hall](#) (GPC-CCC).

BEAM Me Up, AABE!

In October, the Chapter will host its annual Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) program. Members are needed now to partner with local high schools, recruit students to participate, and provide energy-related professional guidance in our Career Day events.

Last year, we held two BEAM events at Redan and South Atlanta High Schools. To volunteer, please contact the BEAM Committee Co-Chairs

[Kimberly Bryant](#) (GPC) and [Blake O' Farrow](#) (AGL).

President Carter Upgrades Pipeline for Atlanta Gas Light



AABE Atlanta Chapter President **Cordell Carter** began serving in a new position as AGL Resources' Staff Engineer, Engineering Design, in July.

In this role, Cordell will be responsible for coordinating design work on Atlanta Gas Light's pipeline replacement program (PRP), which is a systematic replacement of more than 2,500 miles of leak-prone cast iron (CI) and bare steel (BS) pipelines throughout Georgia. The program is scheduled for completion in 2013, with much of the remaining work in metro Atlanta. He will also be responsible for engineering design compliance, budgeting, renewals, ensuring design standards are followed on AGL's new vertical main initiative to install gas piping in high-rise residential structures, and other duties as assigned.

Most recently, Cordell served as Compliance Engineer, Compliance and System Integrity. While in this position, he developed operating procedures for AGL's family of six utilities and a gas storage facility in Louisiana, ensured operational compliance through auditing those utilities, and compliance liaison activities with Field Operations, Regulatory Compliance, and other departments.

Cordell is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering with an additional major in Engineering and Public Policy. He has also completed almost half of the required coursework towards his MBA from Colorado State University.

Capucine Pansy Receives AGL's FlameKeeper Award



040, 1099, 2341, 5498 -- These may sound like lottery Cash Four numbers to you, but to **Capucine Pansy**, Senior Tax Accountant, AGL Services Company, they have a deeper meaning. As a tax accountant for the company and a certified IRS volunteer, she frequently recites these numbers among many others as part of her daily duties. Capucine was recently awarded the AGL Resources' FlameKeeper Award, given to employees who embodied the values of the company, displayed exceptional performance, and significantly contributed to the achievement of our corporate goals during 2007.

Capucine believes that leadership means empowering others through perseverance, humility, integrity and faith. She continually looks for opportunities to expand her company business knowledge and knowledge of fixed assets, often attending American Gas Association workshops to gain knowledge and form relationships within the industry. Capucine is active in her church and annually volunteers to prepare income tax returns for the elderly and less fortunate.

Her FlameKeeper accomplishments included:

- Mentoring her peers from both a personal and professional perspective, assisting them with both work and life issues.
- Leading several important tax fixed asset automation initiatives.
- Working with Information Technology to automate several key processes that resulted in process and productivity gains of 176 hours annually, reducing quarterly tax fixed assets process cycle time from 14 to 7 days.
- Enhancing the functionality of the PeopleSoft AM interface and Powertax, thus improving the reliability and integrity of the company's fixed asset data in both the plant accounting system and the tax fixed asset system. Additionally, these improvements have allowed analysts in the tax fixed asset group to focus on analysis and removed a great deal of manual data entry and non-value added work.
- Serving in many volunteer leadership capacities, including as 2007 United Way Campaign Ambassador, AABE Atlanta Chapter TOUCH Committee Co-Chair of the Philanthropic & Charitable sub-committee, kick-ball tournament coordinator, Junior Achievement instructor and more.

Tequila Smith Promoted at Georgia Power Company



We are pleased to announce that **Tequila Smith** has been selected as the Project Controls Supervisor in Georgia Power Company Transmission Financial and Accounting Controls. In this role, she will support Transmission Project Management by supervising the scheduling activities of land acquisition, engineering, and construction to ensure that substation and line projects are on time and within budget.

Tequila joined Alabama Power in 1998 as a Design Engineer and later became a Field Engineer. She transferred to Southern Company Services in 2001 as an Engineer in Fleet Operation Services and then served as a Fuel Analyst in Fuel Services. She joined Georgia Power in 2006 as a Project Manager in Resource Policy and Planning, her current position. She has worked accident free during her entire career.

Tequila received a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She is a NERC Certified System Operator. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers and the American Association of Blacks in Energy.

In the community, she serves as a Georgia Power Community Coach for Douglas County High

School. She also is a member of the Georgia Power Child Care Advisory Committee.

Tequila's work background at Alabama Power, Georgia Power and SCS, coupled with her engineering and project management experience, make her an excellent choice as the Project Controls Supervisor. Please join us in congratulating her on this new opportunity.

Paula Jackson Moves to Atlanta in August

Please welcome former AABE National Board member **Paula Jackson** (Connecticut Chapter) to our community. Paula and her family will relocate to Atlanta this month. In the past, Paula worked for companies such as United Illuminating Company and the YMCA in New Haven, Connecticut. She also served on the AABE National Board of Directors from 2002 to 2004.

Linda Scales Walks for Sisters by Choice Foundation



We congratulate **Linda Scales** (GPC-in bottom right of picture), a longtime member and past Officer of the Atlanta Chapter, for her participation in [the Sisters by Choice Pink Ribbon Walk](#). Linda joined the charity 5K and 8K walk to combat breast cancer on Saturday, July 19th in Stone Mountain Park.

The Sisters by Choice organization hosts education forums, support groups and

community outreach services about breast cancer and mammogram screenings. To donate towards breast cancer awareness, please visit www.sistersbychoice.net.

GPC will host a retirement party for Linda on August 20th at the Arkwright auditorium from 2PM to 4PM. To attend, please RSVP khbutler@southernco.com.

AABE ATL Membership Drive

Atlanta is one of the most diverse chapters within the organization. We currently have **162** paid members from **32** environmental & energy-related companies, subsidiaries, organizations and educational institutions.

The Atlanta Chapter of AABE has one general chapter and three satellite chapters (CCC, GA Tech and FSVU) in the Southeast (SE) region of the organization. Professionals in the energy industry that are located in the northern Georgia cities of Atlanta, Columbus, Macon, Augusta, Jonesboro, McDonough and surrounding counties who wish to participate in AABE related events can apply new or renew their membership for 2008.

Recruitment efforts are now underway for local energy professionals and college students studying energy-related degrees at our new local student chapters. General membership dues are \$150. Board of Directors dues are \$250. Sustaining membership dues are an additional \$100. Student Chapter dues are \$25. All membership dues are tax-deductible and normally paid for by energy-related businesses.

To download membership applications please click the [website](#) or contact AABE Atlanta Chapter Membership Committee Chairperson, **Tarece Johnson-Hassell** (AGL).

Flint Donates \$5K to FVSU

Flint Energies, a member-owned electric cooperative servicing 17 central Georgia counties, donated \$5,000 in June to the Fort Valley State University (FVSU) Foundation. This is the first time Flint Energies has made a corporate donation to the university. The money has been earmarked for scholarships. FVSU is one of Flint Energies' top ten customers.

AABE Atlanta L&RA Committee Update

The [National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials](#) (NBC-LEO) was created in 1970 to represent the interests of African American elected officials. NBC-LEO's objectives include increasing African American participation on the National League of Cities (NLC) steering and policy committees to ensure that policy and program recommendations reflect African American concerns and benefit their communities.

The organization also works independently with its members to inform them on issues affecting the African American community and helps to devise ways to achieve their community objectives through legislation and direct action. NBC-LEO conducts its annual meetings in conjunction with NLC's Congress of Cities and the Congressional City Conference. This year, the conference was held in Atlanta from July 23rd to the 27th.

The conference title was "*Inspire, Influence and Achieve*" and attended by local elected officials from Washington state all the way to Florida, and featured guest speakers such as **Elder Bernice A. King** (daughter of the late **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**), **Dr. Dennis Kimbro** (author of *Think & Grow Rich... A Black Choice*), and CNN/MSNBC Commentator &

Political Analyst **Jamal Simmons**.

Your local AABE Legislative and Regulatory Affairs leadership was able to connect with President **Cynthia McCollum** of the NBC-LEO parent organization, National League of Cities (NLC). Council Member McCollum looks forward to creating a partnership between NLC & AABE to tap into the wealth of expertise our membership has to offer.

GEORGIA NEWS:

Hansberry Develops Earth Share for Georgians



Andrea Hansberry has been promoted to Director of Development of Earth Share of Georgia. In this new role, Hansberry will build workplace giving campaigns and general support. Hansberry has been with the organization for two years as its Campaign Manager. Since 1992, Earth Share of Georgia has been providing environmental education to businesses across the state.

Frank Ski Sends Atlanta Kids on an Amazon Adventure



The **Frank Ski Kids Foundation**; keeping in line with its mission statement, "*Exposing Kids To Their Future*", envisioned an idea to take a group of U.S. school kids to the **Charles Darwin**

Research Station and the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. This contest set a precedent in the United States - it's the first time in U.S. history that a group of school kids traveled to the **Charles Darwin** Research Station in the Galapagos Islands for a science excursion.

Hundreds of kids ages 13 to 15 entered a contest titled "*Planet Green: The Eco Experience of a Lifetime.*"

Topic: "*If You Were President of the United States, What Would You Do to Help Conserve Energy, Preserve Nature and the Environment for Future Generations?*"

Twenty local Georgian kids were chosen to deliver essays in speech form at the Georgia Aquarium. On May 23rd, ten winners were awarded the opportunity to travel with the Foundation, and had all expenses paid, to the Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands, the world's best conserved oceanic and tropical archipelago, from July 13th to July 20th, 2008. The winners pictured below are:



- **Dominique Nock** Age 14, 8th grade Taylor Street Middle School - Griffin, GA;
- **Devon Fleetwood** Age 13, 8th grade Five Forks Middle School - Gwinnett, GA;
- **James Curlee** Age 15, 9th grade Douglas

County High School - Douglasville, GA;

- **Phillip Musey Jr.** Age 13, 8th grade Trickum Middle School - Gwinnett, GA;
- **Rayjhan Bethune** Age 14, 9th grade Heritage High School - Conyers, GA;
- **Camara Carter** Age 15, 9th grade Sandy Creek High School - Tyrone, GA;
- **Morgan Jackson** Age 13, 7th grade **Jeans Childs Young** Middle School - Atlanta, GA;
- **Paige Staten** Age 15, 9th grade The Schools at Carver - Atlanta, GA;
- **Jill Martin** Age 14, 9th grade Lovejoy High School - Hampton, GA; and
- **Marcia Blakely** Age 14, 8th grade Creekland Middle School - Lawrenceville, GA.

Frank is the host of the *V-103FM* radio station morning show in Atlanta and serves as President & Chairman of the Foundation. His biography is attached at the end of this newsletter. For more information, please visit www.frankskikids.org.

Clean Energy Tax Credits Available to Consumers



Georgia residential consumers and business owners are now eligible for a Georgia income tax credit for installing certain "clean energy property" as a result of the passage of legislation (*House Bill 670*) during the 2008 Georgia General Assembly.

Clean energy property, as defined in the legislation, includes:

1. Solar energy equipment that uses solar radiation as a substitute for traditional energy for water heating, active space heating and cooling, passive heating, day lighting, generating electricity, distillation, desalinization, or the production of industrial or commercial process heat, as well as related devices necessary for collecting, storing, exchanging, conditioning, or converting solar energy to other useful forms of energy.
2. ENERGY STAR® certified geothermal heat pump systems.
3. Solar energy equipment for solar electric (photovoltaic), other solar thermal electric applications, and active space heating, wind equipment, and biomass equipment.
4. Solar energy equipment for domestic water heating.
5. Lighting retrofit projects.
6. Energy efficient building projects.

The equipment must be placed into service between July 1st, 2008 and December 31st, 2012. Under the legislation, the taxpayer must file an application with the Commissioner of Revenue for approval of the credits which will be issued on a first come first served basis. The total amount of credits given in any year will not exceed \$2.5 million. More information on the

credit is found at the following link:

http://www.dor.ga.gov/pressrel/ADM_HB_670_Clean_Energy_Property_and_Wood_Residuals_Tax_Credit_6-30-08.pdf.

The credits are administered by the Department of Revenue who can be reached at (404) 417-4477.

The credits for residential installations are as follows:

1. The lesser of 35% or \$2,500 for solar energy equipment for water heating.

2. The lesser of 35% of \$10,500 for solar energy equipment for heating applications.

3. The lesser of 35% or \$2,000 for certified geothermal heat pump systems.

The credits for business installations are as follows:

1. The lesser of 35% or \$500,000 for solar energy equipment for solar electric (photovoltaic), other solar thermal electric applications, and active space heating, wind equipment, and biomass equipment.

2. The lesser of 35% or \$100,000 for solar energy equipment for domestic water heating.

3. The lesser of 35% or \$100,000 for Energy Star certified geothermal heat pump systems.

4. \$.60 per square foot for a maximum of \$100,000 for lighting retrofit projects.

5. \$1.80 per square foot for energy efficient building projects up to a maximum of \$100,000.

Income tax credits can not exceed a taxpayer's total tax liability.

You can find more information on *House Bill 670* by clicking on the link:

http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/search/hb670.htm.

GPSC Election Results



Three races for open seats on the [Georgia Public Service Commission \(GPSC\)](#) were held on Tuesday, July 15th during the primary election. For District 1, the Republican incumbent **H.**

Doug Everett (pictured above) defeated **Rick Collum** by 65%.

In District 4, Democrat **Jim Powell** defeated **Bob Indech** by 85%. Also in District 4, Republican **Lauren McDonald** defeated **Pam Davidson** by 52%. Primary runoffs in any applicable local or state elections will be held on Tuesday, August 5th. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 4th.

GPSC, GNG and SCANA Settle Variable Rate Dispute

(*Associated Press*, June 17, 2008)

SCANA Energy has agreed to give credits worth \$1.25 million to customers, ending a dispute with the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC) over its variable-rate plans.

SCANA and Georgia Natural Gas (GNG) were investigated by the GPSC staff after some customers complained they were misled and wound up being charged a higher amount than others for a standard variable-rate plan.

GNG agreed in March to issue credits to affected customers. SCANA rejected the settlement

offer, saying its actions did not violate state rules.

Under the settlement, affected SCANA customers who apply will receive credits of up to \$25, with the amount paid by the company capped at \$1.25 million. If more than 50,000 customers sign up, the credits will be prorated. The credit offering expired on July 31st for GNG customers.

Foreclosure Filings by State

[REALTYTRAC](#) ranked Georgia 6th out of 10 in states with the most foreclosure filings in May 2008. Georgia has one foreclosure for every 378 homes. Nevada is ranked #1, followed by CA, AZ, FL, MI, GA, CO, MA, OH and NJ.

SEC Alleges Fraud by Alternative Fuels Company

(*Atlanta Business Chronicle* – July 25-31, 2008)

The Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Atlanta office is seeking to shut down U.S. Sustainable, a biofuels company, as a part of an alleged stock fraud scheme.

The Natchez, Mississippi-based company CEO, **John Rivera**, is being investigated for creating a "pump and dump" scheme between October 2006 and February 2007, distributing false press releases about the company business model that improperly inflated the value of the company's stock. Price then capitalized on that misinformation, selling the shares for nearly \$1 million in profits, the SEC says.

The alleged false statements include claims about the company's patents, contracts, operations and technology, including that the company could convert soybeans into biofuels for 50 cents a gallon.

“This is an area ripe for people to try and take advantage of,” said **Kit Addleman**, the SEC’s Atlanta Regional Director. “You prey upon people’s fears and interests, and with gas at \$4 a gallon, people are interested.”

The complaint seeks a permanent injunction against Rivera and U.S. Sustainable, and a lifetime ban for Rivera serving as a director or officer at any public company.

AABE NATIONAL NEWS:



Gilda Joseph Moves to Russia



AABE Southwest (SW) Region Coordinator and Assistant Secretary to the National

Board of Directors **Gilda Joseph** (Chevron-Houston Chapter) has accepted a position as Contracts Advisor for Tengizchevroil in the Republic of Kazakhstan within the former Soviet Union in Asia. Tengizchevroil is a joint venture between Chevron, ExxonMobil, Lukarco and KazMunayGas. The project is developing the Tengiz and Korolev oil fields located in the north-eastern reaches of the Caspian Sea. The joint venture was formed in 1993. Tengiz is one of the world’s largest oil fields and contains between 6 billion and 9 billion barrels of recoverable crude oil.

Gilda’s new assignment began in July and is expected to last several years. Ms. Joseph was formerly with Chevron Project Resources Company acting as Contracts Advisor servicing major capital projects for the

South Africa Strategic Business Unit within Chevron International Exploration and Production Company. Gilda was elected Assistant Secretary at the AABE National Conference this past April in Houston, Texas.



Pictured above – Map showing the position of the Tengiz oil field in Kazakhstan.

Pictured below – Caspian Pipeline route to export oil.



Volunteer in Orlando for 2009



Planning is now underway for the 2009 conference. The 32nd Annual AABE National Conference will be located at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida from April 14-17, 2009. The theme is “Sustainable Energy for a New Economy.”

The conference is hosted by the AABE SE Region Chapters of Florida (FL/AABE), Atlanta, Birmingham, Gulf Coast, North Carolina, Savannah, South Carolina (SCCAABE), Tennessee and the three new Student Chapters (GA Tech, FVSU and NC A&T). The Co-Chairs of the 2009 Conference Committee are AABE SE Region Coordinator

Corlene Williams (ElPaso/SNG-BHM) and **Gregory Owens** (JEA), FL/AABE Chapter President.

Volunteers are needed to help create the conference in sub-committees such as agenda planning, promotions, logistics and fundraising. The next face-to-face meeting will be from August 15th to 16th in Orlando. To volunteer for a sub-committee, please contact

Corlene.Williams@elpaso.com.

September Board Meeting

The AABE Board of Directors and Chapter Presidents quarterly meeting will be held from September 24th to 27th in Washington, DC. The host hotel is the Four Points by Sheraton, located at 1201 K. Street NW. This meeting will coincide with the Congressional Black Caucus’ Energy Braintrust at the DC Convention Center on Friday, September 26th.

U.S. ENERGY NEWS:

Collision Produces Oil Spill in New Orleans



On the morning of July 23rd, a 600 foot chemical tanker and a 200 foot oil barge collided on the Mississippi River spilling 419,000 gallons of #6 fuel oil. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates that over 100 miles of river shoreline may need to be assessed for damage, closed to marine traffic and then prioritized for clean-up. The accident is almost eight times larger than the 53,000 gallons of

fuel spilled in San Francisco Bay in November 2007.

Winter Weather Could Test Energy Math



(By **Rebecca Smith** *Wall Street Journal* July 18, 2008)

The next blow from high energy prices could come in the dead of winter.

Utilities and industry analysts estimate that it will cost families 30% to 50% more to heat their homes with natural gas this winter. Families who use heating oil could face increases of between 50% and 100%.

That is altering the math for consumers and energy companies alike. Some worry the higher heating costs could be the tipping point for family budgets that are struggling to absorb higher food and gasoline prices. **Mark Wolfe**, Executive Director of the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, which represents state officials who administer energy relief funds, says many New England families could run a tab of \$1,600 to \$1,700 a month to cover heating oil, electricity and gasoline costs next winter.



Governors, state attorneys general and other officials are calling on Congress to boost federal funding of the primary national energy assistance program, called [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP](#). At the current funding level of \$2.57 billion, it helps only 17% of the nation's poor. Click [HERE](#) for the

Georgia LIHEAP fact sheet. The average annual grant for 2008 is \$359. But as heating prices rise, those funds will not buy as much.



Utilities and heating-oil suppliers are also worried about their own exposure as more of their customers fall behind on their bills. Last winter, the average price of natural gas on the New York Mercantile Exchange was \$7.71 a Million British Thermal Units (MBTU) for the November-to-March heating period, according to the American Gas Association. The price for the coming heating season is expected to be about \$13 a unit, up 67%. Roughly half of all U.S. households, about 54 million, heat with natural gas.

In a July 10th report, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said wholesale natural gas prices will average \$11.86 per million cubic feet (MCF) in 2008, up 65% from the average price of \$7.17 in 2007. It expects the price to dip slightly to \$11.62 next year. Consumers pay an even higher price because they must pay for gas storage, transportation and their local utility's costs, add-ons that will push the delivered cost above \$15 a unit for homes, according to the EIA.

Kevin Rooney, the Head of the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island, an association of heating oil suppliers, says that people could wind up paying \$5 a gallon for heating oil this winter, a 72% increase from last year. About eight million households use heating oil, most of them in the

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region. "In the past we worried about the elderly and the working poor," he says. "There are programs out there for them. This year it's going to be a middle-class phenomenon."

Many of the heating-oil retailers are small firms that are ill-equipped to handle the increased up-front costs. While they need to pay their suppliers within a few weeks, their customers often need 30 days or more to settle their bills. Some are worried they might be caught short.

High costs may prompt more conservation and efficiency spending, much the way high gasoline prices are causing people to stick closer to home this summer. The past three winters, residential use of natural gas dropped about 5% each season nationally, amid volatile pricing. Many observers expect the drop in consumption to accelerate as people make changes to permanently reduce use.

Businesses and institutions are trying to figure out how they can lower their bills this winter. The University of Massachusetts at Amherst is replacing a 1940s coal-burning power plant with one that can burn either natural gas or heating oil, allowing the school to choose whichever fuel is more affordable.

Heating oil retailers are fighting back, stressing that the run up in oil costs has been so dramatic that it can't stick. They're also advocating modest upgrades -- like adding programmable thermostats, at \$150 to \$300 apiece, and better burners, at \$800 to \$1,000 - to cut heating oil use by 15% to 18%.

High prices are exposing some institutional weaknesses, too. In many states, utility regulators

discourage utilities from buying natural gas under multiyear contracts. So when spot prices rise sharply, there's no buffer because high costs aren't diluted by purchases made at lower prices over longer periods of time.

The situation is worse than in 2005 when hurricanes ripped through the Gulf Coast, knocking out oil and gas production, because there are no easy fixes this time. Natural gas prices are coupled to oil prices and thus consumers are being taken on the same nauseating roller-coaster ride. Families haven't had time to adjust.

High prices have stimulated drilling activity but natural gas storage levels still are 2% below the five-year average. One reason is that U.S. imports of liquefied natural gas have sagged as U.S. buyers are outbid by buyers in Asia and Europe. Some re-gas terminals serving North America are operating at 10% to 15% of capacity, according to the American Gas Association. Pictured below – Major natural gas producers of the world.



The negative outlook is causing utilities to take another look at how they cover their fixed costs. Two thirds of the industry uses old-fashioned rate structures that reward utilities for selling more units of natural gas each year. Given an upswing in delinquent accounts, growing numbers of utilities are getting permission to impose monthly charges, often \$25 or more, to cover fixed expenses even if overall revenues fall because consumers cut back on energy use.

Gore Urges Fast Energy Makeover for America



(By **Steven Mufson**, *The Washington Post*, July 18, 2008)

Former US Vice President **Al Gore** (pictured above with US Speaker of the House of Representatives **Nancy Pelosi**) called on Americans to convert all electricity generation to wind, solar and other renewable sources within 10 years and end their reliance on fossil fuels for the sake of the U.S. economy and the world's climate.

On July 17th, he said that Americans need to "shake off complacency" and "throw aside old habits," and he asserted that the falling cost of solar power, the ample winds of the Midwest and the high price of oil make the shift to renewable energy "achievable, affordable and transformative."

He also called on automobile companies to make plug-in electric cars and advocated an overhaul of the national electricity grid "to link areas where the sun shines and the wind blows to the cities in the East and the West that need the electricity."

Before a packed and enthusiastic crowd at **George Washington University's Constitution Hall**, the Nobel Peace Prize winner also engaged in some political combat, taking aim at proposals to address high gasoline prices by expanding drilling and at "repeated troop deployments to

dangerous regions that just happen to have large oil supplies. I for one do not believe our country can withstand 10 more years of the status quo," Gore said to hearty applause.

Energy experts greeted Gore's speech with skepticism, even those who agree with the notion of pushing toward greater use of renewable energy.

"It's extremely important to have people like **Al Gore** who are pushing and pressing the edge of the envelope," said **Philip R. Sharp**, President of Resources for the Future, a Washington think tank. "But at this point I don't think there's anyone in the industry who thinks that goal, as a practical matter, could be met. This is not yet a plan for action; this is a superstretch goal."

Half the nation's electricity comes from coal plants, and most of them have expected operating lives beyond 10 years; replacing them would require massive capital investment and throw scores of big energy firms into turmoil. Moreover, solar and wind equipment manufacturers would be hard-pressed to supply enough wind turbines and solar panels to meet Gore's goals in a decade. Most major wind-turbine makers already have backlogs of more than a year for projects that will meet a relatively small portion of U.S. electricity needs.

Gore compared his goal to President **John F. Kennedy's** call for putting a man on the moon within a decade and said that he expected it to be criticized as unattainable. He said that the cost, while large, should be compared to the money being spent importing oil.

"We're borrowing money from China to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to burn it in ways that

destroy the planet," he said.
"Every bit of that has to change."

Moreover, Gore said, the climate change problem is so urgent that "we have less than 10 years to make dramatic changes." He cited studies by military experts who say that climate change could destabilize many parts of the world and have serious consequences for national security.

BE Recognizes Energy Leaders

The August 2008 issue of *Black Enterprise* (BE) magazine featured **Kase Lawal**, CEO of CAMAC International in an article about the growing influence of Africans in the US. In another story about corporate initiatives, **Joel Dickson**, Director of Business Projects & Chief of Staff, Engineering and Operations, at Pacific Gas & Electric in San Francisco, discussed how he learned how to move ahead in the company through training and networking.

Battleground Earth: Ludacris vs. Tommy Lee on Discovery Channel's Planet Green TV



The hard-charging, hard-partying, carbon-laden world of tour bus-living musicians doesn't exactly scream green! Now, Planet Green challenges two icons to join the newest trend in music; "going green." **BATTLEGROUND EARTH: LUDACRIS vs. TOMMY LEE** challenges hip-hop superstar **Chris "Ludacris" Bridges** and rock icon **Tommy Lee** to battle against the toxic forces destroying Mother Earth as they travel across the country on a 10-episode tour.

Viewers witness the two stars pushed to the limit as they attempt to keep their high-wattage acts on an eco-friendly course. Enlisting the help of their posses, aka "ecorages," and various guest stars to help them get to the finish line.

Throughout the tour they battle to get the word out about the state of the environment. This Rap n' Roll battle culminates in a green carpet benefit concert at LA's legendary Greek Theatre. The concert featuring Luda, Tommy and many of their famous musician friends raised more than \$33,000, including a donation from Treeland, benefiting the renewal of Griffith Park, which was devastated by recent wildfires.

BATTLEGROUND EARTH is not about winning the race but ultimately raising awareness about the environment. Spots called "*Pass it On*" featuring an eclectic group of celebrities including **Magic Johnson**, **Wayne Brady**, **Travis Tritt**, and **Criss Angel**, among others, offer eco tips to viewers and are featured throughout the 10-episodes. The Discovery Channel network will premiere this show on August 3rd at 10PM.

Make Your Vote Count

For a description of each Democratic, Independent and Republican candidates' ideologies on energy and environmental issues, please click on the [Grist.org website link](http://www.grist.org). The US general election for President will be held on Tuesday, November 4th.

AABE ATL INFORMATION:

What is AABE@?

*"The American
Association of Blacks in*

***Energy™ is dedicated to
ensuring the input of
minorities into the
developments of energy
policy, R&D technologies,
and environmental
issues."***

Visit AABE's National website at <http://www.aabe.org> for more information.

Atlanta Chapter 2008-2009

Officers

Cordell Carter, President (AGL)
Eric Arnold, Vice President (GPC)

Cherryl Harris, Treasurer (GPC)
Olivia Parks-Woods, Assistant Treasurer (SCS)

Valerie Harris, Secretary (GPC – CCC)

Jennifer Henson, Assistant Secretary (GPC – CCC)

Tiffany Callaway-Ferrell, Parliamentarian (AGL)

Shelby Hall, CCC Satellite Chapter Coordinator (GPC – CCC)

Dimitri Hughes, GA Tech Student Chapter President

Dr. Comas Haynes, GA Tech Student Chapter Coordinator

Dr. Isaac Crumbly, FVSU Student Chapter Coordinator

Board of Directors

Ralph Cleveland, AGL Resources

Dot Harris, AABE National Secretary, GE Energy

Richard Holmes, GPC

Southeast Region Coordinator

L. Corlene Williams, Birmingham Chapter (ElPaso/SNG)

AABE Atlanta Chapter 2008 Program Schedule (Tentative)

1/16 – **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** "Day of Service" Program (GPC)

1/26 – AABE 31st Conference Planning Meeting (Houston, TX)

1/31 – Career Day Expo (Clarkston HS)

2/14 – Black History Month Program (AGL)
 2/21 – AABE NC Chapter Energy & Environment Conference (Greensboro, NC)
 3/13 – General Meeting (GPC)
 3/15 – AABE 31st Conference Planning Meeting (Houston, TX)
 3/22 – Light Swap 2008 Event
 3/24 – AABE Scholarship Applications Due
 4/2 – AABE Energy Principles Meeting (AGL)
 4/12 – MS Walk
 4/15 to 4/18 – AABE 31st Annual Conference (Houston, TX)
 4/24 – AABE General Meeting (CCC)
 4/25 – Career Day Program (Redan HS)
 5/2 – ACS Relay for Life
 5/3 – SEM Link Career Fair (Georgia State University)
 5/9 to 5/11 – Sweet Auburn SpringFest 2008
 5/15 – 14th Annual Scholarship Banquet (GPC)
 5/16 – 6th Annual Golf Tournament (Summer Grove Golf Club)
 5/20 – AMBCC Meeting (Auburn Avenue Research Library)
 6/5 – South DeKalb Rotary Club (Fairfield Inn)
 6/7 – ABEST BizTech Summit (Hyatt)
 6/16 – 3rd Annual AABE/AAF Meeting (GE)
 6/19 to 6/21 – AABE Board of Directors Meeting (Kansas City, MO)
 6/28 – AHA Utility Forum (Georgia World Congress Center)
 7/10 – Networking Event (GPC)
 7/19 – Sisters by Choice Relay
 7/21 – ABEST Meeting (GPC)
 7/23 to 7/27 – NBC-LEO Conference (Atlanta)
 7/24 – AABE Visioneering Board Session
 7/28 to 8/4 – Annual School Drive (CCC)
 8/14 – Career Focus Meeting (GPC)
 8/15 to 8/16 – AABE 32nd National Conference Planning Meeting (Orlando, FL)
 8/20 – General Meeting (CCC)

9/1 – *CHOICES* Mentoring Program Begins (BTW & HCHS)
 9/11 – State of Energy in Georgia Meeting (AGL)
 9/25 to 9/27 – AABE Board of Directors Meeting/Congressional Black Caucus (Sheraton-DC)
 10/9 – BEAM Program (various/TBD)
 10/12 – AABE 32nd National Conference Planning Meeting (Orlando, FL)
 11/1 – CCC TOUCH Program
 11/4 – US General Election
 11/13 – AABE Program with ExxonMobil Speaker (GPC)
 12/1 – CCC TOUCH Program
 12/5 to 12/6 – AABE Board of Directors Meeting (Orlando, FL)
 12/11 – End of Year Celebration (GPC)

AABE Atlanta Chapter General Membership meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Atlanta Chapter Officers & Executive Committee Meetings are held during the 1st Monday of the month. Dates may change when necessary.

Atlanta Chapter Address:

AABE – Atlanta Chapter
 P.O. Box 55216
 Atlanta, GA 30308-5216

Atlanta Chapter Websites:

<http://aabe.org/atlanta>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ABEATL> (Message Board)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OEBBkJ9_8o (AABE Atlanta Chapter 25th Anniversary video)

Atlanta Chapter Committees and Chairpersons:

Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM)

Kimberly Bryant (GPC) and
 Blake O’Farrow (AGL)

Communications/ Public Relations & Technology

Wayne Young (Honeywell),
 Charlotte King (Snowden & King), Jennifer Henson (GPC-

CCC) and Valerie Harris (GPC-CCC)

Fundraising

Charmaine Caruth (GPC) and
 Jerrold Hill (AGLC)

Membership

Tarece Johnson-Hassell (AGL)

Programs

Fanchester Henry (GPC-CCC),
 Lillie Battle (GPC) and Faye
 Adeniran (GPC)

Scholarship

Valerie Searcy (GPC) and
 Earnestine Young (GPC-CCC)

2009 Conference Planning

L. Corlene Williams (El Paso Corp. / Southern Natural Gas - Birmingham Chapter) and
 Gregory Owens (Jacksonville Electric Authority - Florida Chapter)

Taking Our Unbroken Commitment Home (TOUCH)

Mentoring

Nevada Weatherspoon (GPC)
 and John Moore, III (GPC)

TOUCH

Philanthropic/Charitable

Pauline Harriott (SCS) and
 Capucine Pansy (AGL)

TOUCH Energy Education

Cordell Carter (AGL),
 Dr. Sonja Ebron (blackEnergy) and
 Eric Arnold (GPC)

Legislative & Regulatory Affairs (L&RA)

Mickey Wade (AGL) and
 LaTunya Goodwin (GPC)

Georgia Institute of Technology Student Chapter

Dr. Comas Haynes (GA Tech)
 and Dimitri Hughes (GA Tech)

Fort Valley State University Student Chapter

Dr. Isaac J. Crumbly (FVSU)
 and Ralph Cleveland (AGL)

Atlanta Chapter Goals (2008-2009):

- Raise Community Profile;✓
- Increase Membership Recruitment and Retention by 5%;✓
- Financial Governance;✓
- Increase Scholarships by 5%;✓
- Establish Student Chapters;✓
- Create a Membership Directory;✓
- Establish a Foundation to Fund Scholarships;
- Update the Chapter By-Laws.

Check marks indicate where we met or exceeded these goals so far in 2008.

Member Company Websites:

www.aabe.org
www.aaf.gecompany.com
www.atlantablackchamber.org
www.atlantaslight.com
www.aglnetworks.com
www.aglresources.com
www.aucenter.edu
www.blackenergy.com
www.burnsmcd.com
www.ch2m.com
www.fvsu.edu
www.gas-south.com
www.gasoc.com
www.gatech.edu
www.georgianaturalgas.com
www.georgiapower.com
www.greystonepower.com
www.heatga.org
www.honeywell.com
www.htsenterprise.com
www.millennium-energy.net
www.mirant.com
www.opc.com
www.psc.state.ga.us
www.scanaenergy.com
www.slking.com
www.southerncompany.com
www.southstarenergy.com
www.snowden-king.com
www.snpo.org
www.synergeticdesign.com
www.thinkenergygroup.com
www.willyoujoinus.com

GOT NEWS?

Please send all comments, suggestions,



AABE information, energy-related news and announcements to AABE Atlanta Chapter Communications, Public Relations and Technology Committee Chair **Wayne X. Young** (Honeywell) at wayne.young2@honeywell.com. The committee reserves the right to edit any documents provided to the newsletter for submission. The deadline for the next monthly *All ABOUT Energy* newsletter is **Monday, September 1st**.

Black History Energy Moments

August 5, 1914 – The first electric traffic lights, invented by **Garrett Morgan**, are installed in Cleveland, Ohio.

August 17, 1897 – **William B. Purvis** invents a method of providing power to an electric railway.

August 23, 1900 – **Booker T. Washington** forms the National Negro Business League in Boston, Massachusetts.

August 25, 1876 – **Thomas Carrington** invents an improved cooking stove to better control heat and use a common flue.

August 28, 1963 – The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom becomes the largest civil rights demonstration in US history.

BLACK HISTORY QUOTE:

*"The time is always right to do what is right."
 – Reverend Dr.
 Martin Luther King Jr.*

BLACK HISTORY MAKER:

FRANK SKI



Equipped with demonstrated journalistic skill, a trademark voice and a celebrated compassion for his community, award-winning media mogul, **Frank Ski**, has spawned a fan base and laundry list of accomplishments unparalleled by veterans in any single industry, let alone four: radio, recording, TV and film. A quadruple-threat, Ski has mixed his love and expertise in the media, recording and film industries to amass a following of fans across the country.

Having established himself as a leader in the radio industry along the east coast, it was no surprise that New York native and veteran producer, disc jockey, radio and television personality **Frank Ski**, would make history in his current position as the mastermind and host of the top-rated radio show at Atlanta-based radio station V-103 (CBS affiliate).

Born in Harlem, NY and reared in Miami, FL **Frank Ski's** influence continues to transcend barriers of race, creed and culture nationwide. His thought-provoking and ever-entertaining morning show continues to draw attention to critical issues while providing listeners with compelling interviews with chart-topping artists. With him at the helm of the morning drive, his eight-year tenure is marked by consistently drawing the highest ratings in the market.

For more than 15 years, **Frank Ski** has established himself as a noted journalist on many fronts. He boasts such career highlights as conducting the final interview with the 1st Lady of the Civil Rights Movement, **Mrs. Coretta Scott King**, and securing the exclusive interview with **Wayne Bertram Williams**, thrusting him even further into the public eye as the only journalist to interview the heavily sought after convicted murderer in more than a decade. Frank made national headlines

when his interview with Williams helped to re-launch the investigation of the Child Murders, the most highly publicized murder series of children in the Georgia, and indeed the entire country.

In 2002, the **Reverend Jesse Jackson** presented Frank with the distinguished “*Journalist of the Year*” on behalf of the Rainbow Push Coalition. An avid philanthropist and humanitarian, **Frank Ski** frequently lends his name, resources and talents to serve as host and spokesperson for charitable and educational initiatives including the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame which commemorates the contributions of noted African-Americans and heroes of the Civil Rights era. Days after the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, he spearheaded an initiative to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for displaced families. In 2005 alone, he has raised nearly a half million dollars for **Hosea Williams** Feed the Hungry and Homeless and Metro Atlanta Respite & Development Services, a non-profit agency that assists children with special needs.

In addition to his numerous contributions behind the microphone at V-103, Frank launched his philanthropic endeavors to a new level by developing the **Frank Ski Kids** Foundation. For more than seven years, this foundation has provided financial assistance to low-income youth applicants, and youth-serving agencies to expand opportunities for educational athletic and cultural learning. Hundreds of Atlanta’s youth benefit from the positive alternatives and educational opportunities the foundation provides each year.

Through the **Frank Ski Kids** Foundation, Frank has set several precedents. Among them is being the very first African American

foundation to sponsor a group of students on all expenses paid excursion to Ecuador where they explore the Galapagos Islands, an isolated array of islands in the Pacific Ocean near the equator and the **Charles Darwin** Research Station. The Foundation is also the first to consistently graduate a top-ranking class of students from NASA’s Space and Rocket Center Space Camp and Space Academy in Alabama on an annual basis.

PHOTO GALLERY:

Frank Ski Kids Foundation
Amazon Adventure 2008 Pictures

