Looking forward to 2016

The GFEI launched a busy year of country activities and research at TRB, a global gathering of transport experts organised by the US National Academies’ Transport Research Board in Washington D.C., with a meeting at which exciting new work on electric vehicles, heavy duty vehicle fuel economy and trends in LDV fuel economy were shared. GFEI will publish final reports in all of these areas later this year, as well as launching its capacity-building work in 40 new countries, and continuing to engage in key global policy fora.

New State of the World report

GFEI has launched its latest ‘State of the World of Fuel Economy’ report which provides a comprehensive overview of the latest developments in fuel economy globally. The 2016 edition was launched at COP21 in Paris in December, and is subtitled ‘Time for Global Action’. It includes analysis of trends in average fuel economy between countries, and progress towards GFEI goal of improving average fuel economy by 50% by 2050 for all vehicles, and 2030 for new vehicles. The report shows that more progress is needed to achieve these ambitious but realistic goals. Although there has been some encouraging action in recent years, more is needed.

The report provides an update on the latest fuel economy policies in place globally, such as new schemes in Kenya, Vietnam, Thailand and Saudi Arabia as well as the progress that many other countries are making with GFEI’s support towards introducing new measures, including progress in Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, South America and Asia.

You can download the report here: http://www.globalfueleconomy.org/data-and-research

GFEI at COP21

The Global Fuel Economy Initiative was significantly involved in the 21st Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) in Paris in December 2015. GFEI was involved in a series of meetings, where we launched our new ‘State of the World’ report, and showcased our ‘100 countries for 50 by 50’ initiative, and the 40 new countries who have so far who have indicated they want to join, and $7 million in new funding to support this expansion in GFEI’s work.

See inside for more on GFEI at COP21.

View the latest news stories from the Global Fuel Economy Initiative at www.globalfueleconomy.org/blog
GFEI AT COP21

GFEI discusses urban fuel economy at ITF’s COP21 event

On Wednesday 2nd December, GFEI participated in its first event of COP21, a side event in the OECD pavilion in Le Bourget on ‘Mitigating the Climate Impacts of Urban Travel’. The panel, hosted by ITF featured Wei-Shiuen Ng and Philippe Crist of ITF, who shared work on scenario planning in Asian cities and the impact of shared mobility, as well as Michael Replogle, from the New York City Department of Transportation, who highlighted the importance of land use planning. Michael also made the point that by combining policies, such as increased cycling together with fuel economy we can often have greater impact. He pointed to a 60% combined reduction in CO₂ from this particular combination.

Sheila Watson, Executive Secretary of GFEI, shared GFEI’s perspective on the importance of vehicle fuel economy standards in ‘improving’ and reducing vehicle CO₂ emissions, in the context of wider ‘avoid’ and ‘shift’ policies. She also described the messages which GFEI was bringing to the COP as part of the ‘100for50by50’ campaign.

GFEI showcased at LPAA Transport action day

On 3rd December, the Global Fuel Economy Initiative was highlighted by the Transport action day of the LPAA (Lima-Paris Action Agenda), the main vehicle by which the French government was highlighting key initiatives and partnerships that are having an impact.

The meeting was addressed by Segolene Royal, French Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development, who highlighted the importance of cleaner, greener cars, including electric vehicles. The Global Fuel Economy Initiative was represented in the meeting by the Chilean deputy Transport minister, Cristian Bowen Garfias, who highlighted the role that new vehicle efficiency standards have played in reducing carbon emissions and air pollution in Chile.

GFEI published a baseline study of CO₂/Fuel Economy for the Chilean Car Market in September 2010 with the Chilean Ministry of Transport. This information was key for negotiating a new fuel economy label which started on February of 2013 and was the first mandatory scheme in Latin America. In 2014 the Chilean Congress approved the most important tax reform in the last 30 years, which included a fee based on the levels of fuel economy and NOx emissions produced by the vehicle and has been in force since December 2014.
GFEI launched its new ‘State of the World’ report at a high-profile official side event at COP21 exploring the contribution of transport to a low-carbon pathway.

The event was a collaboration with the Wuppertal Institute, CTS Embarq Mexico, IPIECA, the FIA Foundation and Clean Air Asia. Oliver Lah, climate policy expert for Wuppertal Institute set out the vital role that transport must have in contributing to emissions reductions if climate change is to be limited to less than 2 degrees centigrade, a key milestone after which the intensity and frequency of catastrophic climate events increases.

For GFEI, Sheila Watson unveiled the new report which comprehensively reviews the latest actions and assesses global progress on improving fuel economy towards GFEI’s target of doubling average fuel efficiency of all new vehicles by 2030 and all vehicles by 2050.

Drew Kojak, Executive Director of the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) then summarised the latest analysis contained in the report, on progress in major markets, which shows significant improvements have been made, but that more progress is needed globally in order to achieve these ambitious markets. This includes countries with existing standards to increase ambition, but will also require countries with no standards to introduce them and start on the path towards world class levels. The other presentations highlighted the important contribution that cities, national governments and industry can make in reducing emissions.

In launching the report, GFEI wrote to UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres to highlight this analysis, and the importance transport must play in any global climate change agreement.

At the FIA Foundation AGM on 3rd December in Central Paris, the activities of GFEI were highlighted as part of the Foundation’s ‘Safe, Clean, Fair and Green’ Agenda.

Mark Radka of UNEP and the Ugandan Environment Minister, Hon. Flavia Nabugere, addressed the assembly, highlighting the critical role that the FIA Foundation’s support and hosting of the secretariat has in enabling the Global Fuel Economy Initiative’s work. Minister Nabubere shared how with GFEI’s support, Uganda is moving towards new fuel economy standards which will clean up the vehicle fleet in the country and reduce emissions. At the meeting, Saul Billingsley, Director General of the FIA Foundation announced a further Euro1 million of support for GFEI’s work to facilitate the expansion of the number of countries in that the initiative works as part of the ‘100 countries for 50 by 50 campaign’.

Ugandan Minister represents GFEI at FIA Foundation AGM

GFEI side event launches ‘Fuel Economy State of the World report’
GFEI at COP21

GFEI announces work in 40 new countries

Sunday 6th December was Transport Day at COP21. The event, organised by SloCat, Michelin Bibendum and Bridging the Gap was hosted by the International Railway Union in its offices next to the Eiffel Tower brought together over 350 delegates from across the complete range of initiatives under the banner of #WeAreTransport.

The opening plenary heard from Assistant Secretary on Climate Change to the UN about existing initiatives which are getting stronger, such as GFEI’s 65 countries – up from 27 at the Climate Summit.

GFEI was featured in a side event which explored the importance of fuel efficiency for reducing emissions, as part of a panel organised by Transport and Environment. Jos Dings of T&E set the scene with an exposition of just how little efficiency there has actually been across modes; Sophie Punte of Smart Freight Centre laid out the particular complexities of that area; and Glynda Bathan of CAI Asia identified positive steps forward in her region. Sheila Watson shared the findings of the new ‘State of the World’ report and urged greater enforcement as a key way in which to improve vehicle efficiency and reduce emissions.

Later in the afternoon plenary session, Ministers from Costa Rica, and Ivory Coast shared the steps that they were taking to address vehicle fuel economy as part of the range of activities that they were undertaking to improve mobility to support sustainable development and limit increases in emissions from growing vehicle fleets. Sheila Watson also addressed this plenary, identifying the 33gt of CO2 and $8 trillion in cash which reaching GFEI targets could bring, but adding in a message to the Governments gathered nearby at Le Bourget - ‘If you want these gains then GFEI’s message is clear – we’ve got this technology – now we need the policy.’

GFEI – going Dutch

In the Netherlands Pavilion at COP21 on Monday 7th December, GFEI was amongst a series of transport initiatives showcased because they offer practical climate solutions.

The Dutch government will be taking over the European Union presidency in 2016, and is strongly encouraging action in a number of areas, including transport. Priorities include agreeing targets for emissions reduction at the level of individual member states, and new vehicle fuel economy standards post-2020. Sheila Watson highlighted the importance of the public having trust in companies and testing systems, and GFEI’s role in supporting the vehicle testing process. The conclusions of the meeting were then shared with Sharon Dijksma, Minister of Environment in the Netherlands, who had come along to hear the recommendations of key initiatives.
Fuel Efficiency: The Game Changer

GFEI was able to share its new analysis on the State of the World of Fuel Economy with the wider participants of COP21 in the ‘Climate Generations’ zone on Monday 7th December. Lew Fulton (ITS at UC Davis) and Geoffrey Wahungu (National Environment Management Authority of Kenya) highlighted how effective policy, based on evidence of the vehicle fleet, can improve a country’s average vehicle fuel economy levels. They highlighted the range of policy options available to governments including standards, taxes and ‘feebate’ systems. Lew Fulton described the example of Sri Lanka which has provided tax incentives for hybrid vehicles and now has the highest proportion of such vehicles in the world. The Kenyan representative explained the process of assessing policy options for vehicle standards, including a range of fiscal and non-fiscal measures. As the majority of cars in Kenya are imported second-hand, the country has recently significantly tightened the laws on such imports, meaning that now only vehicles 3 years old or less will be allowed to be imported. This will have the effect of reducing average emissions of vehicles, by encouraging purchase of newer, more fuel efficient vehicles.

GFEI in the Climate Studio

Sheila Watson, Executive Director of the Global Fuel Economy Initiative was interviewed by the Climate Change Studio, the official broadcast channel at the UNFCCC negotiations and streamed worldwide on the event’s website.

Sheila was able to highlight GFEI’s new ‘State of the World’ report, and the large number of countries which have committed to join the work. You can watch this interview here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eqfo2fRJAU8&list=PL-r9sc3zD4ADwx-bzNF1WTzvKQegtrKZD

GFEI an inspiration in Energy Efficiency

The final event that GFEI was involved in at COP21 was the Energy Efficiency LPAA action day.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP made special reference to GFEI as ‘a model alliance that should inspire other sectors’. The audience was then shown a new film which was commissioned especially for the occasion which showcases GFEI’s global work. This was followed by an interview with Marcelo Mena, Chilean Environment Minister who described how GFEI had successfully supported the government in Chile to introduce a series of measures to improve fuel economy, including vehicle emissions labelling, a carbon tax, and a tax on emissions which is based on both CO₂ and NOx emissions. He was followed by Sheila Watson who explained how as a result of the Energy for All Accelerator, GFEI will be increasing its work to include an additional 40 new countries, on top of the 27 countries where it already supports work.
Sophie Punte, Executive Director, Smart Freight Centre
“Freight transport generates 40% of transport emissions worldwide, and we therefore welcome GFEI’s expertise and network to improve the fuel efficiency of heavy duty vehicles alongside cars. The private sector must do the heavy lifting in reducing emissions from freight, but government can give a strong signal by setting fuel economy standards for trucks, and GFEI has a strong track record in mobilizing action to realize this.”

Jos Delbeke, Director-General DG Climate Action, European Commission
“Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector around the world is essential to achieve global climate targets. Improving the efficiency of vehicles is one of the most cost effective ways to reduce CO₂ emissions. The GFEI has made an important contribution to develop fuel economy policies in a number of countries contributing to lower greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality. This is why the EU has provided funding to GFEI from its very beginning.”

Volkmar Denner, CEO, Bosch
“The Global Fuel Economy Initiative brings together decision-makers from around the world with industry representatives, NGOs, academia and other stakeholders. By combining political ambition and technological expertise, all relevant contributors to the goal of raising global fuel economy can be looked at: from the highly-efficient combustion engine to alternative powertrains, from fuel decarbonisation to eco-innovations and connectivity solutions. Bosch is proud to contribute to these discussions.”