



Ecology Center Joins 'Drive to Survive' Car Rally

The Ecology Center joined with City of Ann Arbor officials and actor and environmentalist Dennis Weaver this May in "Drive to Survive," a cross-country caravan showcasing the viability and availability of hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicles. The event was

part of a two-week, 20-city tour that started in Los Angeles and finished in Washington, D.C. The local rally featured an exposition of more than 20 vehicles at Pioneer High School, followed by a parade through the downtown area.

The tour emphasized energy independence, and actions citizens, governments, and corporations can take to help reduce our dependence on imported oil. "We can create cars that preserve the environment while enabling a robust economy," said Weaver. "The 'Drive to Survive' is an exciting way to demonstrate the success of these alternative vehicles."

Charles Griffith, the Ecology Center's Auto Project Director, spoke at the rally with Weaver and Ann Arbor mayor John

Hietje. "The 'Drive to Survive' is a great complement to the Ecology Center's Clean Car Campaign, which has now collected more than 100,000 pledges from individuals desiring a cleaner vehicle the next time they are making a purchase," said Griffith. "This tour helped to showcase the alternatives that are available now in people's own communities."

The event featured hybrid-electric vehicles, bio-diesel-powered school buses, electric "neighborhood" cars, and natural-gas vehicles, including the city's new natural-gas-powered dump truck, the first of its kind in the U.S.

Additional photos from the event can be viewed at: <http://www.insightman.com/drive03/drive2survive.htm>, hosted by local hybrid owner John Johnson, aka "Insightman."



photo: Duncley Simpkins

Ecology Center Auto Project Director Charles Griffith joins actor and environmentalist Dennis Weaver at Ann Arbor's "Drive to Survive" rally on May 10.