

A Summary of the NHA 2003 Program Plans

By Jay Laskin, Secretary and Treasurer, National Hydrogen Association

At the November 8, 2002 Board of Directors meeting, the 2003 Program Plan was adopted for the [National Hydrogen Association](#). The following is a summary of that plan:

The overall intent of the 2003 Program Plan is to continue to balance the NHA activities among outreach, market conditioning and regulatory structuring to create a friendly market environment for hydrogen power and transportation technologies.

In addition to internal operational and managerial activities, the main NHA activities are as follows:

Codes & standards - Assistance and coordination of the development of consensus codes and standards is one of the most important functions of the Association. The NHA seeks to coordinate codes and standards activities to avoid duplication. As such, the NHA interacts with the International Organization of Standardization (ISO), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the US Fuel Cell Council (USFCC), International Codes Council (ICC), Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and many others. The NHA coordinates closely with the DOE, industry and academia and members regarding its codes and standards activities and holds technical conferences to facilitate advancement of the work.

Policy – The NHA works to establish consensus position papers relative to hydrogen. This then, is used as a source of information to the Government in the formation of Federal policies. The NHA also publishes a Legislative Update for the members to keep them apprised of the latest legislative activities.

Member communications – A variety of communication vehicles are used to facilitate information exchange on hydrogen technologies, institutional and infrastructure issues critical to the commercial use of hydrogen. These are made available to members.

Committees – In order to provide a forum for member interaction on key program areas as well as to gain access to the expertise of the membership, committees are formed and operated in each of the program areas.

Public Education and Outreach – It is recognized that a sustained program of public education regarding hydrogen is urgently required. NHA is active in developing and distributing educational tools such as fact sheets, web site links, educational curriculums, brochures, CD-ROM's and videos.

PATH – It is recognized that the development of international partnerships is important in advancing the use hydrogen. The Partnership for Advancing the Transition to Hydrogen (PATH) was formed to facilitate multinational cooperation and the exchange of information that each member organization can use for it's own country benefit. The NHA via the DOE is the U.S. Member and thus the secretariat of PATH.

NHA Annual Meeting – The NHA sponsors an Annual Meeting which is its signature event. It's principal objective is to highlight the exchange of relevant information and to promote the development of the commercial use of hydrogen as an energy carrier.

Project participation and Contracted Member Services – The NHA seeks opportunities to assist with demonstration projects as well as other member projects that require coordination. It is also available for consultation with other organizations for technical assistance.