

GATEWAY TO SCIENCE ETHANOL EXHIBIT

Status Report: Contract R-027-036

Provided May 2, 2017

For the period of Jan. 1-March 31, 2017

Provided by the North Dakota Ethanol Council

Objectives

The objectives of this project are: 1) to increase the long-term use of ethanol in North Dakota by educating students, parents and educators in the region on the benefits of ethanol to the economy, environment and energy independence; and 2) to ensure the future of the ethanol industry workforce by engaging students, parents and educators in the lifecycle of ethanol production, specifically the scientific process of converting an agricultural product, which is a growing source of sustainable energy, into high-value co-products, including ethanol and distillers grains.

In addition to the North Dakota Ethanol Council (NDEC), partners in the program are Gateway to Science (GTS) and Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM), as well as ethanol industry stakeholders including: CTE Global Inc, Dupont, Gavilon, Growth Energy, Lallemand and New Age Cryo.

The strategy that will be implemented to meet the objectives is the installation of a hands-on, interactive, ethanol-specific exhibit to be utilized as a pilot at the current facility and then permanently installed at the new GTS facility in Bismarck, ND, which is scheduled to open in 2018.

Strategy Progress

During this reporting period, 2,020 guests visited the gallery and interacted with the ethanol exhibit, including field trips from Will-Moore Elementary School, Naughton Elementary School, Theodore Jamerson Elementary, Turtle Lake-Mercer Public School, Lewis & Clark Elementary and Kulm Public School. Gateway to Science (GTS) continues to collect exhibit feedback from visitors through an online survey. Center Guides are also conducting interviews and recording observations of guests' reactions to the exhibit.

In the next quarter, GTS will work with the North Dakota Ethanol Council to add video content, such as NASCAR American Ethanol race footage, to the exhibit. It will also secure corn and distillers grains samples to incorporate in the display and utilize in educational outreach programming.

In addition, GTS is in discussion with Science Museum of Minnesota to determine the timeline for ethanol exhibit modification and additional fabrication to incorporate the changes recommended in the evaluation period.