



NREL + MERCEDES-BENZ

NREL is partnering with Mercedes-Benz to test the user experience with refueling a fuel cell electric vehicle, the B-Class F-CELL. NREL is employing its Hydrogen Infrastructure Testing and Research Facility for each refueling of the compact, front-wheel-drive hatchback from Mercedes-Benz. While using the vehicle, NREL is also making it available for outreach, education, and public events to raise awareness of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies.

R&D STRATEGY

Multiple employees of NREL and the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, NREL's contract holder, are driving the vehicle as needed over the course of one year and recording their driving and refueling experiences. NREL researchers are gathering data from the hydrogen refueling station, combining it with the drivers' log records, and analyzing the combined information for station performance and fueling protocols with an eye toward optimizing the refueling station's customer interface.

IMPACT

A goal of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure Research and Station Technology project is to ensure that fuel cell vehicle customers have a positive refueling experience similar to refueling conventional gasoline and diesel vehicles. This project is helping to achieve that goal while also making the F-CELL vehicle available for public outreach and education, thereby facilitating public acceptance of this new vehicle technology.



A Mercedes-Benz B-Class F-CELL fuel cell electric vehicle is parked adjacent to a hydrogen refueling station, part of the ESIF's Hydrogen Infrastructure Testing and Research Facility. *Photo by Ellen Jaskol, NREL 34892*

Partner with NREL at the ESIF

User facility access to the ESIF is awarded through the review and approval of user proposals, depending on the scientific merit, suitability of the user facilities, and the appropriateness of the work to DOE objectives, and includes a signed user agreement for the facility.

For more information, please visit:

www.nrel.gov/esif/working_with.html

or contact:

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The Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) provides the R&D capabilities needed for private industry, academia, government, and public entities to collaborate on utility-scale solutions for integrating renewable energy and other efficiency technologies into our energy systems.

To learn more about the ESIF, visit: www.nrel.gov/esif.

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