

PRCC GAZETTE

"DRIVING THE WAY TOWARD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE"

Volume 4, Issue 8

May 2015

DEP Continues the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program

HARRISBURG, PA -- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced the continuation of Pennsylvania's Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program, which provides \$2,000 rebates to commonwealth residents for large-battery system plug-in hybrid electric and battery-electric vehicles. DEP provides these rebates as incentives to assist Pennsylvanians with the incremental cost of purchasing an alternative fuel vehicle.

"Alternative energy options are central to making Pennsylvania's environment beautiful and sustainable for years to come," acting DEP Secretary John Quigley said. "We encourage everyone to consider these renewable and clean technologies."

Issue Contributors:

Rick Price, Executive Director/Coordinator, PRCC
Jan Lauer, President, PRCC
Kristie Kubovic, Shale Media Group

PITTSBURGH REGION CLEAN CITIES
C/O Rick Price, Executive Director/Coordinator
1436 Royal Park Blvd
South Park, PA 15129
www.coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org

To qualify, the vehicle must be registered in Pennsylvania, operated primarily in-state, and be purchased no more than six months before the rebate application is submitted. The rebates are funded by the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program, which is supported by a gross receipts tax on utilities.

Large-battery vehicles that have battery system capacities equal or greater than 10 kilo-watt hours (kWh), including models such as the Nissan Leaf, Ford Focus, BMW, Tesla, and Chevy Volt, are eligible for the highest rebate amount of \$2,000. DEP is also extending rebates of \$1,000 for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and battery-electric vehicles with battery system capacities of less than 10 kWh, including models such as the Toyota Prius plug-in, Ford C-Max Energi, Ford Fusion, and Honda Accord.

Rebates of \$1,000 are being extended for natural gas, propane, hydrogen, or fuel-cell vehicles, such as the CNG powered Honda Civic or any 2014-15 CNG powered car or pickup truck. CNG original equipment, manufacturer retrofits, or certified conversions to CNG or propane are also eligible for the \$1,000 rebate. A \$500 rebate is available for electric motorcycles and scooters.

There are only a limited number of rebates available at \$2,000. The rebate program offered will be reassessed upon payment of the first 250 rebates at \$2,000 or December 31, 2015, whichever occurs first.

To apply for a rebate and for more information, click [here](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2015

The PRCC Board of Directors meeting schedule is as follows:

July 1, 2015

October 7, 2015

All meetings will be at :

Five Star Development Inc.

1501 Preble Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Starting at 9:30 AM

Upcoming Events

Bio-Diesel Petroleum Reduction Technology Workshop – August 21, 2015

National Drive Electric Event
When: September 19, 2015
Where: Robinson Mall (By Food Courts)

6th Annual Odyssey Day – October 16, 2015

Training Classes

The PRCC is working with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and the Community College of Allegheny County – West Hills Center to conduct training classes. These classes are free to Sustaining Members

None scheduled at this time!



To register for these classes go to
<https://ccacentral.ccac.edu/WebAdvisor/WebAdvisor?TOKENIDX=9996794264&SS=2&APP=ST&CONSTITUENCY=WBST>

or contact Bob Koch at 412-788-7378 or
rkoch@ccac.edu



Dean Honda Leading Retailer of Civic Natural Gas

Dean Honda is the premier Honda dealership in the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. They are a third generation family-owned business, dedicated to offering the best in sales and service to their community.

Dean Honda is the number one retailer of the Civic Natural Gas in Pennsylvania. The car runs on compressed natural gas (CNG), which is a fuel that burns much cleaner than gasoline, reducing harmful tailpipe emissions and pollutants. CNG is also less expensive than gasoline, and will remain so, as gasoline prices climb back up.

The Civic Natural Gas is a “dedicated” natural-gas vehicle, meaning it runs exclusively on CNG. This guarantees 100% alternative-fuel use. Some other natural-gas vehicles use a bi-fuel system that doesn’t offer the same economic and low-emissions benefits that a dedicated system offers.

Because natural gas is a low-carbon, clean burning fuel, a switch to CNG results in substantial reductions of hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Civic Natural Gas is classified as an AT-PZEV (Advanced Technology Partial Zero-Emission Vehicle) as certified by the California Air Resources Board. As well as, the Civic Natural Gas has the cleanest internal-combustion engine in a sedan ever tested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is EPA certified as Tier-2, Bin-2 and ILEV.

Making America less dependent on foreign oil is a national priority. In Pennsylvania, the Civic Natural Gas is powered by a locally-sourced fuel, thanks to the increase in local production of natural gas. With plenty of public CNG fueling stations currently open in Western Pennsylvania, and more coming online every month, it makes even more sense to drive a Civic Natural Gas. By sourcing CNG vehicle services and fuel locally, more dollars stay in the local economy. And no dollars go to support foreign oil sources.

There is more good news! The Civic Natural Gas qualifies for the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) Program, which provides rebates to assist residents and businesses purchase new AFVs. The rebate is \$1,000.

To learn more contact the Dean Honda Civic Natural Gas Sales Representative.

Michael Vozza
412-496-1281

mikevoz@hotmail.com

Dean Honda, 911 Clairton Blvd. (Route 51),
Pittsburgh, PA 15236



By [Adam Larson](#) On May 14, 2015

By: Kristie Kubovic, Director of Communications,
Shale Media Group

Edited By: Mindy Gattner, Editor, Shale Media
Group

Photos By: Shale Media Group

On Thursday, May 28th, [Energy From US \(EFUS\)](#) will celebrate the grand opening of their compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling station in Bentleyville, PA. This is only the second CNG refueling station in Washington County, PA and eighth across southwestern Pennsylvania.

The station will have a prime location right off of I-70 halfway between Washington, PA and New Stanton, PA and along Route 917 in Bentleyville.

CNG is domestically abundant, clean, safe, quiet, powerful, efficient, and economical for the United States. In addition, CNG is affordable, costing less than its gasoline and diesel counterparts, and offers price stability, consistently sitting around \$2.00/GGE (gas gallon equivalent), while its counterparts, gasoline and diesel, often vary dramatically and are very dependent upon international affairs, particularly in the Middle East. The price of CNG looks to remain stable due to this nation's abundant shale oil and gas reserves found throughout the country's various shale formations. Perhaps more importantly, CNG offers America energy security and less of a dependence on foreign oil.

The concept for the station's name, [Energy From US](#), is a two-fold play on the word, "US." One being that the station is utilizing United States' (U.S.) energy; and two being that the CNG and propane provided are from "us," the American people.

Kamlesh Gosai, President, Energy From US L.P., expressed, "On behalf of everyone involved with Energy From US, we are proud to invest in the community and our future to do our part to help this nation move one step closer to American energy security. The source for CNG and propane comes from areas like the Marcellus and Utica Shale plays, a region right under the feet of millions of Americans. The growth of the shale oil and gas industry in the US, along with its domestic abundance, is important for national security. The downstream sector of the shale oil and gas industry and getting natural gas to the consumers to utilize for transportation is vital, and we're happy to do our part."

The grand opening will take place in conjuncture with Shale Media Group's Elite Energy Event from 5-8 pm, which will be held in front of the Bentleyville Holiday Inn Express. The ribbon cutting will be held at 6 pm at the CNG station site. Attendees can either walk the short distance or utilize alternative fuel transportation that will be provided.

The event will showcase a lineup of speakers including: Bob Beatty, President, "O" Ring CNG Fuel Systems; Ron Schramm, President, [ProGas, Inc.](#); Dave Dudo, Senior Vice President of Operations, [Beemac Trucking](#); Rick Price, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities; and Matt Smith, Applications Sr. Engineer, [USA Compression](#) on behalf of the [Northern West Virginia Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers](#).

The CNG fueling station, along with a propane fueling station, which is still in the planning stage, will form Energy From US. The project, which began about a year and a half ago, is a partnership between doctors Anant Gandhi, Kamlesh Gosai, and Shashi Kumar; businessmen Nainesh Desai and Dilip Desai; and builder Bob Beatty of "O" Ring CNG Fuel Systems.



(Picture from EFUS Groundbreaking—from left to right: Barry Stout, former Pennsylvania 46th District Senator; Rick Price, Executive Director of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities; Ron Schramm, President of ProGas, Inc.; Tejas Gosai, President of Shale Media Group; Anant Gandhi, Physician; Bob Beatty, President of "O" Ring CNG Fuel Systems; Dilip Desai, Physician; Shashi Kumar, Physician; former Senator Tim Solobay, Pennsylvania 46th District Senator; and Gerry Thomas of Peoples Natural Gas)

"O" Ring CNG Fuel Systems, L.P. is a full-service global CNG fuel solutions company based in Western Pennsylvania. Beatty relayed, "Our goal is to promote the use of CNG as a clean, abundant, and economical North American energy source in order to boost the economy, reduce foreign oil purchases, enhance national energy security, create more jobs for US workers, and reduce harmful emission into the environment." "O" Ring currently owns and operates four CNG stations and has built over a dozen others for clients. Its station projects are vertically integrated throughout all aspects of design, implementation, and building, ending with a sustainable energy product for the future.

In February, [Energy From US](#) and “O” Ring CNG teamed up with U.S. Gain (GAIN® Clean Fuel) to co-brand the CNG station and incorporate it into U.S. Gain’s nationwide infrastructure network of CNG stations. U.S. Gain is a leading CNG provider, offering fleet operators access to an environmentally friendly and cost-effective alternative to traditional fuel options. “GAIN® Clean Fuel stations are strategically located for carriers along major shipping corridors and provide easy-access, fast-fill capabilities. U.S. Gain is on track to open 100 new fueling stations across the US within the next two years,” explained Julie Brinker, Business Development Manager – Mid Atlantic, GAIN® Clean Fuel.

In addition to the ribbon cutting and speakers, the event will also include an ice sculpture from Rich Bubin of Ice Creations, food provided by [Catering America](#), a photo booth, and an open bar. Rice Energy will also have their CNG powered fire truck on display at the event, along with the Rice Energy ice cream truck, also known as the Rice Cream Truck. Kimberly Price, Community Relations Director, Rice Energy, expressed, “The opening of CNG stations across our region represent another chapter in the success story of the Marcellus Shale. We at Rice Energy are very excited to see our local business leaders taking the initiative to bring a cleaner, more affordable alternative to gasoline and diesel to the residents of Washington County.”

At the recent Ohio Valley Regional Oil & Gas Expo in St. Clairsville, Ohio, Daniel Rice IV, CEO, [Rice Energy](#), shared that Rice Energy has several CNG powered vehicles in their fleet. He also pointed out that two-thirds of the gas produced in this region is moved to the Gulf and noted, “I would like to see more opportunities to utilize that gas here. CNG-powered vehicles offer a great option for that to occur.”

Bentleyville has turned itself into a hub for the shale oil and gas industry, as it is already the home of Shale Energy Institute, a truck driving school with a shale oil and gas focus, and the Alta Vista Business Park, which hosts companies such as Gardner Denver Nash, Scientific Drilling International, and Weatherford Drilling

Additionally, [Mustang Oilfield Services](#), a water hauler that supports companies that drill shale gas wells in PA, OH, and WV, is opening a yard in Bentleyville. Although only a couple years old, Mustang has grown rapidly, increasing their fleet of trucks to 25 and their workforce to around 60 employees. Greg Cook, CEO, Mustang Oilfield Services, relayed, “Mustang has been looking into converting some of our fleet to CNG. The EFUS CNG refueling station in Bentleyville will help facilitate our switch to CNG.”

The Energy From US CNG refueling station is located at 190 Wilson Road, Bentleyville, PA. It will be open to the public 24/7 after the grand opening and will be credit card payment only. The station in Bentleyville is the flagship for a series of stations planned by EFUS along Interstates 70 and 79 in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. For more on EFUS, [click here](#)



Penn State Advanced Vehicle Team participates in EcoCAR 3 competition

April 29, 2015

The Penn State Advanced Vehicle Team (AVT) will head out to Seattle this May to compete for EcoCAR 3, a four-year collegiate engineering competition that challenges 16 universities to build a hybrid vehicle. Since 1988, the Penn State AVT has participated in several other similar hybrid vehicle building competitions. The team won third place at the EcoCAR 2 competition last year, for which it re-engineered a 2013 Chevrolet Malibu into a series hybrid. The car runs on E85 fuel, 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. The hybrid-electric Malibu drives 40 miles with the electric motor alone and 250 miles with the engine.

Sponsored by U.S. Department of Energy and General Motors, EcoCAR 3 is a coalition of government, industry and academia that educates students to explore sustainable vehicle solutions. For EcoCAR 3, which runs from 2014-18, the Penn State AVT will re-engineer a 2016 Chevrolet Camaro into a hybrid-electric vehicle. During these four years, the team will reduce harmful environmental impact of the Camaro while maintaining its performance and safety. During this first year of the EcoCAR 3 competition, the Penn State AVT has been using industry software to design the virtual model of the vehicle and select architecture. Next year the team will integrate the design reviewed by Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) into the stock vehicle donated by General Motors. ANL is a Department of Energy research facility and organizer of EcoCAR 3. The vehicle is expected to be 50 percent complete by the end of Year Two. Year Three will involve testing the ride and handling, drive quality, and emissions and energy consumption of the Camaro. During the fourth year, the team will add consumer features and finalize the car to showroom quality. Through EcoCAR 3, students gain hands-on experience to become the next generation of professionals in engineering, project management and communications in the automotive industry. By sharing knowledge in a team-oriented yet competitive environment, AVT members prepare themselves for a job market. "Now more than ever, hybrids and electric vehicles are showing their worth for performance machines," said Chris Monaco, a graduate student adviser and veteran volunteer. "We're happy to be part of that movement."



ROUSH®

CLEANTECH

Article: Clean Cities

Date: February 2015

Title: The Worst Advice About Alternative Fuels

By: Joe Thompson, president, ROUSH CleanTech

Word Count: 450

When it comes to the use of alternative fuels and advanced vehicles, folks are often quick to offer their opinion. Here's a breakdown of the top five worst pieces of advice I've heard when it comes to considering alternative fuels.

1. Compare miles per gallon.

MPG is an ineffective measurement because alternative fuels don't burn at the same rate as gasoline or diesel. Instead, focus on cost per mile and track the savings against your current gasoline or diesel solution. This will provide an "apples to apples" comparison between all the fuels — that'll give you a true reading of your total cost of ownership of the vehicle. Remember, it's all about total cost of ownership, not simply miles per gallon.

2. You must install expensive private refueling stations.

With fueling stations in every state and thousands across the country, alternatives like propane autogas provide a strong network of public refueling infrastructure for fleets without private stations. Also, if private refueling is desired, installing a propane autogas station costs less than any other fueling station, including gasoline or diesel.

3. Alternative fuels don't perform well in cold weather.

During last winter's polar vortex, Blue Bird Corporation had alternative fuel buses that provided easy starting, heat within minutes, quiet operation, and no performance issues in weather as cold as -27 degrees Fahrenheit. You can see for yourself how well the buses at Student Transportation of America in Omaha started last winter in a news program on ABC-affiliate.

TV channel 7 [here](#). During that same time period, the diesel buses had to be started and warmed for 30 minutes to one hour before operation, because of fuel-related issues.

4. Alternative fuels void vehicle warranties.

This may or may not be true, so be sure you're clear before you choose. Ask your authorized dealer or installer how a new fuel system affects warranty. If you're buying direct from a manufacturer, the warranty may stay in place. For example, ROUSH CleanTech vehicles maintain Ford's factory warranty. But, note that a company can "represent" their warranty; be sure to verify that the warranty stays in place with the manufacturer.

5. There is one alternative fuel that is perfect for everyone.

Every fleet has its own specific fueling needs. One size does not fit all. When it comes to alternative fuels, put in the time and research to find the ideal fuel solution for your fleet. Ask yourself, "What do I need my fuel to do for me?"

Picking the right fuel and the right technology partners will be based on your specific fleet operations. Listen and learn from others that have made the switch, contact your local Clean Cities — and make the commitment to domestically produced, cleaner burning fuels.

Photos

Joe Thompson has served as president of ROUSH CleanTech since the company's inception in 2010. <http://roushcleantech.smugmug.com/ROUSHcleantech/Personnel/i-rbPVS2V>

SuperShuttle picks up airport passengers in shuttles fueled by domestically produced propane autogas. <http://roushcleantech.smugmug.com/CustomerVehicles/SuperShuttle/i-tcMBhxt>

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority provides clean and affordable transportation to the disabled in propane autogas fueled paratransit shuttles. <http://roushcleantech.smugmug.com/CustomerVehicles/Greater-Cleveland-Regional/>

Erie City School District Goes Green with Blue Bird!

In 2012, The School district of The City of Erie has had its share of ups and downs. The City of Erie, like a lot of cities had fallen on economic hard times, and the decrease in its tax revenue base has had its effects on the school district. The school districts' transportation office had not purchased any new buses for a few years hoping to save money in their operating budget. Although the savings were there at first, the school quickly learned that the older equipment with diesel motors became more expensive to repair over time. Faced with this dilemma the transportation department started to look at other options. One of the options that looked promising was the use of lower price alternative fuels, CNG or propane autogas.

Blue Bird Bus of Pittsburgh was doing a "Demo Day" event in a nearby school bus contractor's facility and invited all the local school districts to attend. This is where Lead Mechanic Curt Elkin test drove a propane powered demo bus, and had an opportunity to speak with Blue Bird Bus Sales of Pittsburgh's alternative fuels specialist Joshua Wasielczyk about the potential savings in fuel, maintenance, and down time repairs.

Over the next two years, Dave Haft Director of transportation and Curt Elkin worked with Josh to develop a case study of showing savings other school districts in Western PA had obtained that were already running propane powered school buses. They spoke with Ron Schramm and Don Schons of ProGas Inc., an independent propane autogas supplier about fuel pricing and infrastructure expense with the school district. Curt quickly learned that he could have ProGas Inc. install a facility at little to no expense to the school. With infrastructure saving and the potential operating savings this could be the answer the school was looking for. Dave and Curt presented their findings to the school board in November of 2014. Along with the savings study they also learned there was a grant available from the Commonwealth of PA to help reduce the conversion cost. Blue Bird Bus Sales of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Regions Clean Cities, and ProGas Inc. assisted The School District of the City of Erie with a AFIG Grant application.

The district was awarded the grant, and received 50% of the incremental up charge for each of the propane alternative fuels powered school buses, that savings alone totaled \$ 30,000.00.

In December of 2014 The School District City of Erie awarded the Bid to Blue Bird for six new Propane Powered Vision School Buses. On February 23rd, 2015 the first four 72 Passenger Blue Bird Propane Powered Vision School Buses rolled onto the bus lot at The Erie City School District. Two additional 21 passenger wheel chair lift buses arrived 2 weeks later. Since their deployment the 6 buses have driven 9,000 miles, displacing 1,286 gallons of diesel, and saving the school an estimated \$2,370 in fuel expense in just a few months. Dave Haft states "The buses started on the coldest days, even when the diesel buses didn't! We fill the buses on site, with our Propane Autogas fill station that ProGas Inc. built. Our diesel buses have to go downtown to fill". Curt Elkin notes that, "The Drivers love the performance and how quiet the buses operate. The mechanics love the ease of servicing the buses. We haven't had any of the issues we would normally be experiencing with our diesel particulate filters, or our diesel exhaust Fluid Systems." Curt Also said, "I don't know if we would ever buy diesel again. "Our new Blue Birds equipped with the Roush Clean Tech propane system, have exceeded every one of our expectations!



P. C. McKenzie Company is pleased to announce the release of the McKenzie/Sauer WP4351-NG-DX compressor package. Sauer USA is the leading supplier to the United States Navy for high pressure compression. P. C. McKenzie Company, Ingersoll Rand's CNG Master Distributor, has partnered with Sauer USA to provide larger CNG compression packages to complement current offerings.

The first McKenzie/Sauer WP4351-NG-DX package has been installed for the US Army at Ft. Benning, Georgia and will be used to fill buses that transport recruits throughout the base. One of the challenges for this installation was designing a package that would not require a concrete pad to dampen vibration. The internal vibration isolation system utilized on the package solved this issue and helped to reduce installation costs.

The WP4351-NG-DX is a duplex compressor package design and is rated at 186 scfm with only 5 psi inlet pressure. State-of-the-art designs allow for continuous duty and easy operation in NGV Refueling, Natural Gas Engine Testing, and Pipeline Gas Injection.

Additional designs are currently being finalized and will include a CNG rental unit.



Advantages include:

- Direct Drive ~ reduces operating costs
- Long intervals between routine maintenance ~ reduces maintenance costs
- Low compression temperatures ~ longer life
- Weather enclosure available
- After-market parts in stock and available for fast delivery
- Low cost – High Performance ~ 186 scfm = 89 GGE/Hour & 86 DGE/hour

Please contact us for more information regarding CNG applications.

Mark W. Good
P. C. McKenzie Company
412-257-8866
www.mckenziecorp.com

PRCC to Hold Petroleum Reduction Workshop for Bio-Fuels

The Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities has scheduled a Petroleum Reduction Technology Bio-Fuels PRT Workshop (August 21, 2015). The workshop will be held at the Community College of Allegheny County – West Hills Center, 1000 McKee Road, Oakdale, PA 15071. The workshops will be from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

Each participant will be given facts sheets about the specific technologies of the workshop and a chance to interact with people who already are using a specific fuel and or technology and see some of the alternative fueled vehicles

To register for the Bio-Fuels PRT Workshop go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ILQu6BUHX8A8i7ojE2qZ-5zD9qtdDBjmCrGNLXbcjQg/viewform>

ProGas: Pittsburgh's Propane Driving Force
May 28, 2015 cleanfuel In autogas, cleanfuel, cleanfuelusa, dispenser, LPG, propane, propane autogas



Propane, also known as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), is used by millions of Americans each and every day. Traditionally, propane is often thought of for heating and cooking with household items such as furnaces, water heaters, air conditioners, dryers, ranges, and outdoor grills. However, in recent years non-traditional uses such as powering fleet vehicles have become more popular.

Propane is a byproduct of both natural gas processing and petroleum refining. “Propane has been used as a motor fuel for more than 60 plus years, mainly for industrial and commercial forklifts. During the first energy crisis in the 1970s, alternate fueled vehicles started to appear. Propane was used to power cars and trucks as an alternate fuel because it was plentiful and cheaper than gasoline or diesel, but that didn’t last long as crude oil production increased and crude prices dropped. Everyone forgot about using alternate fuels,” explained Ronald Schramm, President, ProGas, Inc.

Schramm added, “Today there is more awareness. With the discovery of the shale gas formations in our country, alternative fuels have come back to life. Compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), and propane are now being discussed as the future fuels of choice for transportation in our country.”

Propane is affordable and offers price stability, while its counterparts, gasoline and diesel, often vary dramatically and are very dependent upon international affairs, particularly in the Middle East. It's likely a safe bet that the price of gasoline and diesel won't remain as low as they've been. In fact, we've already seen crude prices starting to increase again—and with that, so have gasoline and diesel prices. However, the price of propane looks to remain stable due to this nation's abundant shale oil and gas reserves found throughout the country's various shale formations, such as the Marcellus and Utica Shale plays.

Servicing the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia (an area where the Marcellus Shale is located), ProGas, Inc. is a full-service propane distributor and fuel solutions company that services residential and commercial accounts along with propane motor fuel, known as autogas. The company offers residential propane gas service, industrial cylinder exchange, bulk propane delivery, and temporary heat for industries like construction. ProGas is also a full line industrial gas and welding supply business. Schramm relayed, "The emergence of the shale oil and gas industry in this region has helped ProGas. It has increased the awareness of propane and its use as a motor fuel, autogas. Plus, our welding supply shop has grown 20 fold due to industry drilling and pipeline construction. We are excited about that side of the business."

ProGas was founded in 1999 by Schramm and two partners, when they purchased a propane bottle gas and welding supply business in Zelienople, PA. The company had total sales of \$120,000; however over the past 15 years, ProGas has seen a steady growth in all phases of its marketing plan and has seen sales grow to over \$6.5 million last year.

ProGas was founded in 1999 by Schramm and two partners, when they purchased a propane bottle gas and welding supply business in Zelienople, PA.

The company had total sales of \$120,000; however over the past 15 years, ProGas has seen a steady growth in all phases of its marketing plan and has seen sales grow to over \$6.5 million last year.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Schramm previously worked at a family business supplying propane autogas to around 400 vehicles. However, he explained, "That went away because the technology was not as good and the price of oil came down." Then a few years ago, Schramm attended the National Propane Gas Association convention in Atlanta, GA and attended a conference sponsored by the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), where he heard a presentation by Steve Whaley that discussed new, evolving technology in the autogas field. Inspired by the talk and his own history, Schramm decided to embrace autogas again.

Utilizing a marketing concept that PERC presented at the conference, Schramm approached Globe Airport Parking, a park and shuttle service near the Pittsburgh International Airport, with a package for saving the company money. The significant saving from using propane autogas over gasoline or diesel, along with the technological improvements with propane conversion systems, helped Globe Airport Parking become ProGas's first autogas customer in the summer of 2012. Last year alone, Globe Airport Parking saved about \$70,000 from utilizing propane autogas over gasoline. In addition, the company saved an additional \$38,000 from tax credits available for alternative fuels.

From Globe Airport Parking, ProGas's autogas service list has continued to grow. ProGas has been a driving force behind the slow and steady growth of propane use as an alternative fuel in the region. ProGas is now supplying ten fleets and 14 school districts or private school bus operators. Propane sales for autogas have grown to around 220,000 gallons this past year.

ProGas services approximately 3,200 propane and welding customers. Additionally, ProGas was involved in providing the propane fueling infrastructure for the first public alternative fueling station on I-80 in Pennsylvania and just completed installing propane fueling infrastructure for Sunoco, Inc. at their company operated service station at the Pittsburgh International Airport location. Autogas can also be purchased at two locations operated by ProGas, Zelienople and Aliquippa, PA.

The biggest users of autogas have been fleet vehicles, such as school buses, shuttles, taxis, and police vehicles. Schramm says, "Propane AutoGas is one of the leaders in the growth of the alternative fuels market. Even with falling gasoline and diesel prices, propane AutoGas continues to offer cost advantages over conventional fuels. Price is a key factor, but not the only factor. Fleet managers look at overall performance, efficiency, and productivity. Propane provides all of that and environmental benefits. Propane is one of the cleanest burning of all fossil fuels and is considered non-toxic and poses no threat to soil, surface water, or groundwater." In addition, propane autogas gas tanks go through rigorous testing; have durable, thick tank walls; and are equipped with safety features to ensure proper filling and transportation use. In fact, propane autogas has been used in the school transportation industry since 1992. The users who see the biggest return are those who use the most fuel. Companies who are thinking of switching to propane autogas need to look at the total cost of investment and the return on investment. Propane is a great choice for many companies. "I have customers that have paid their initial conversion cost back in three and one half months," informed Schramm, who added propane autogas also tends to be the most cost effective and convenient fueling infrastructure available for companies that operate fleets and return to the same yard every day.



VETaxi Now Has Three Tesla's in Their "White Glove Service"

Click the link below to see the newest version

[Tesla Motors Unveils Dual Motor and Autopilot](#)

[Tesla Factory In Motion](#)



PRCC Sustainable Members



PRCC Membership Levels Information

Membership Options: Individual- \$150 Nonprofit- \$300 Bronze- \$500 Silver- \$1000 Gold- \$2000 Platinum/Sponsor- \$4000+

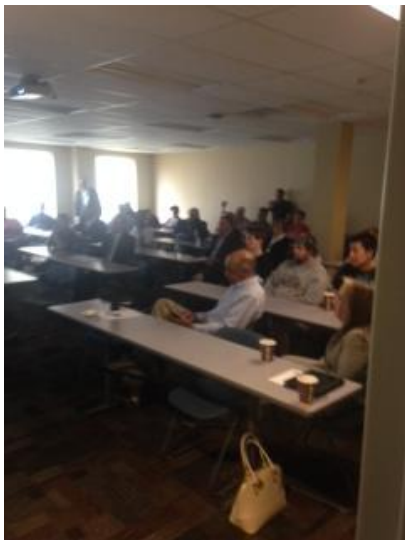
To find out more on membership levels go to:

http://www.pgh-cleancities.org/wordpress/?page_id=367



PRCC Holds EV/PHEV PRT Workshop

On April 17, 2015 the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities held a Petroleum Reduction Technology Workshop for EV/PHEV vehicles. The event was held at the Community College of Allegheny County – West Hills center where alternative fuel classes are held through the year. There were almost 30 attendees which included a number of students who are taken automotive classes at the college. The attendees receive fact sheets on electric, plug-in electric and hybrid vehicles as well there were a PHEV Ford C-Max Energi, BMW-I3, Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf and a Tesla. The event featured speakers from all of the major manufacturers of EV/PHEV vehicles.



UNITED WE STAND – SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt thoughts go out to our fellow Americans during this time of crises. We will continue to stand strong and united in our support of the men and women protecting our country's interests.

Please come visit our PRCC Web Site:

www.pgh-cleancities.org

. Contribute Your News!

In trying to get the news of successes we have in our area. Please feel free to contact Rick Price, Executive Director/Coordinator at 412-735-4114 or at coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org.

Learn more about Clean Cities at cleancities.energy.gov, and learn how to get involved with the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities coalition at www.pgh-cleancities.org

