

PRCC GAZETTE

“DRIVING THE WAY TOWARD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE”

Volume 5, Issue 7

January 2018

Port Authority to buy first electric bus

Port Authority should have its first all-electric bus in operation in about 20 months, soon enough to train personnel and test the vehicle before opening the proposed Bus Rapid Transit system in 2020.

The authority announced last week that it has received a \$500,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration under a special program for low-emission or no-emission vehicles to buy an electric bus. The agency had requested \$2.5 million so it could test several vehicles, but chief operations officer Bill Miller said it will benefit from having one test vehicle.

Mr. Miller said having one electric vehicle before the Bus Rapid Transit system is in place will give the authority a chance familiarize drivers and maintenance personnel with the new vehicles. It also will let the authority learn how every task the vehicle does — from running windshield to putting out a wheelchair ramp — can be a draw on the vehicle's battery.

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but that can vary based on the terrain, the number of stops and the other electric-powered devices in use on the vehicle.

The grant is designed to pay the difference between the cost of a regular, diesel-powered bus and an electric vehicle. A regular bus costs about \$480,000 and an electric one about \$800,000.

The money not used on the bus itself will pay part of the cost of a charging station, which will cost about \$400,000 installed.

Mr. Miller said the authority likely will assign the electric bus to the 88 Penn route, which runs from mostly on Penn Avenue from North Point Breeze through East Liberty, Lawrenceville and the Strip District to Downtown.

The agency hasn't decided yet whether to put the charging station at its East Liberty maintenance garage or along the bus route, where the driver could recharge during a layover stop.

The proposed Bus Rapid Transit system between Downtown Pittsburgh and Oakland calls for the authority to purchase 25 electric articulated buses. The authority expects to have a combination of charging stations in maintenance facilities and along the BRT route, which will use Forbes Avenue outbound from Downtown and Fifth Avenue inbound.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017

The PRCC Board of Directors meeting schedule is as follows:

January 4, 2018

April 4, 2018

July 11, 2018

October 3, 2018

All meetings will be at:

Five Star Development Inc.

1501 Preble Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Starting at 9:30 AM

Upcoming Events

Stakeholder/Alternative Fuels Meeting -
March/April 2018

Odyssey Day –October 2018

EV Educational & Ride-n-Drive Events -
TBD

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

Light Duty Natural Gas Vehicles

ATE-115-WH85

1. CEU

TBD

Introduction to Hybrid Electric Vehicles Training

ATE-136-WH85

1.0 CEU

TBD

CNG Tank Inspector Prep for Certification

ATE-601-WH85

TBD

Servicing Hybrid Electric Vehicles

ATE-137-WH85

TBD

Propane Autogas Training

May 21-23, 2018 (Additional Information Coming Soon)

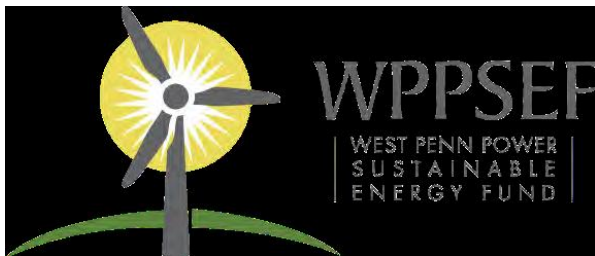


To register for these classes contact Bob Koch at 412-788-7378 or rkoch@ccac.edu



Electric buses look similar to diesel buses until they reach a recharging station. To recharge, a bar raises from the roof of the vehicle to connect with the station, similar to the connection from a light-rail vehicle or streetcar to an overhead electric wire.

In addition to the electric bus, the authority has applied for a \$4.8 million grant to buy 10 new 40-foot diesel buses to replace older vehicles. The authority is competing with other transit agencies for \$226.5 million in grant funds, which require a 20 percent local match.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

The WPPSEF seeks to co-fund the installation of public-accessible electric car charging stations at a limited number of certified, high performance buildings. The charging stations must be located in the WPP service region.

Sustainable Energy Financing Request for Proposals (2018-01) Proposal Submission Deadline February 27, 2018 (4:00 PM, EST)

For more information go to
https://www.wppsef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/WPPSEF_RFP_2018-01.pdf



Figure 1. WPP Service Region (shaded in green).

CITY OF PITTSBURGH SELECTS ENVISION SOLAR EV ARC™ SOLAR CHARGING STATION FOR ITS FLEET OF EVS

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. – November 21, 2017 – Envision Solar International, Inc., (OTCQB: EVSI) (“Envision Solar,” or the “Company”), the leading renewably energized EV charging, outdoor media and energy security products company, announced that the City of Pittsburgh will deploy 5 of its EV ARC™ products to provide emissions-free EV charging and emergency power for its fleet vehicles.

The City of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania has 10 EVs today and intends to increase that number going forward. As part of the City’s ongoing efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and provide clean and reliable power, it intends to transition to 100% renewable energy including wind and solar by 2035. The contract awarded to Envision came as a result of a competitive RFP process.

“In Pittsburgh we are working to achieve long-term environmental health through wise stewardship, improved use of our resources and reducing our carbon footprint. Adding the Envision Solar EV ARC emissions-free charging station to the electric vehicle fleet is one more step on our journey towards making Pittsburgh 100% renewable.” – Mayor William Peduto
“Pittsburgh is the latest city to recognize the benefits of driving on sunshine with our EV ARCs,” said Envision Solar CEO Desmond Wheatley. “We are delighted to be working with them and look forward to enabling much more clean, green, impact free charging infrastructure for them in the future.”



Commonwealth Launches Pilot program To Integrate Hybrid, Electric Technology Into State Vehicle Fleet

Wednesday, September 13, 2017



HARRISBURG, Pa. – Pennsylvania Department of General Services Secretary Curt Topper was joined by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Policy Director Jessica Shirley yesterday to officially launch the Commonwealth's Hybrid/Electric Vehicles Pilot Program.

"We are very excited to take this first step towards the integration of hybrid and plug-in electric technology into our Commonwealth vehicle fleet," Secretary Topper said. "We all play a role in reducing our carbon footprint. We've already taken steps to 'go green' in our buildings and facilities, so the logical next step is to now look at how we can be more environmentally friendly with the cars we put on the road on a daily basis."

According to Topper, the pilot program will consist of three types of vehicles: 2017 Chevrolet Volt Hybrid, 2017 Ford Focus Electric and 2017 Ford Fusion Energi. A total of 25 vehicles will be involved in the pilot program, in which the departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection are early participants.

DGS will assign four of their 17 vehicles to DEP, and DCNR purchased eight vehicles for their agency. DGS has two level-2 charging stations at the Commonwealth Garage at 22nd and Forster Streets;

while DCNR worked out a deal with PP&L to donate 8 charging stations for their use at the 5th Street Garage in downtown Harrisburg.

"As Pennsylvania's conservation agency, our work to green our fleet and promote sustainability helps us be responsible with the use of agency resources and highlight best practices," Secretary Dunn said. "Hybrid and electric vehicles will reduce carbon and decrease fuel costs – a win for the environment and the pocketbook."

DGS is recommending agencies use the vehicles as pool cars, which will allow more employees to experience the technology. The department looks to lease the cars out to agencies who express interest in hybrid or plug-in electric vehicles, such as DEP who will be the first agency to get green cars from DGS.

"These vehicles represent DEP's commitment to reducing two things: costs for Pennsylvania taxpayers and air pollution," said Jessica Shirley, DEP Policy Director. "By leasing these hybrid vehicles from DGS, we will cut down on fuel costs and the tailpipe emissions going into the air." This pilot program which is expected to last approximately 42 to 60 months will give the Commonwealth the opportunity to identify the sustainability, operational ease, maintenance and resale value of hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles in the state fleet. Based on the results of the pilot, the Commonwealth will make recommendations to develop policies for hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles to determine how many vehicles are needed in the fleet, how they should be assigned, and how long they should be kept in the fleet.

The Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Releases Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicle Maintenance Facility Modifications Handbook

The recently released [Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Facility Modifications Handbook](#) covers primary considerations for developing a compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle maintenance facility. This first-of-its-kind document can greatly improve understanding and safety surrounding CNG maintenance facility design.

Electric Drive Market Snapshot

Monthly Sales - October 2017



Market Growth



On the Road



Infrastructure



Jobs



October 2017

*Figure is from DOE's 2017 US Energy and Employment Report, which used a survey of 30,000 businesses to estimate employment within relevant NAICS codes to sub-industries of interest.

Ford will boost electric vehicle spending to \$11B and offer 40 electrified models by 2022

Ford Motor will boost its investment in electric vehicles to \$11 billion by 2022, said chairman Bill Ford at the Detroit Auto Show today. This is a huge increase from the \$4.5 billion by 2020 the automaker [announced in December 2015 that it planned to invest](#).

Since then, however, Ford has becoming increasingly focused on electric and smart vehicles. Last May, it replaced chief executive officer Mark Fields with Jim Hackett, who was previously in charge of its self-driving car subsidiary Ford Smart Mobility. The leadership shakeup came after [shares of Tesla passed Ford in market capitalization](#), positioning the Model S maker as the second-largest auto company in the U.S. after General Motors.

Chairman Ford also says the company plans to have 40 electric vehicles in its model lineup by 2022, with 16 fully electric vehicles and the rest plug-in hybrids. "We're all in on this and we're taking our mainstream vehicles, our most iconic vehicles and we're electrifying them. If we want to be successful with electrification, we have to do it with vehicles that are already popular," Ford told reporters, [according to Reuters](#).

Governor Wolf Announces Five Fuel Saving Projects for Pennsylvania Schools, Businesses, and Municipalities

November 27, 2017
Projects will reduce air pollution and reduce fuel consumption and costs

Harrisburg, PA – Governor Tom Wolf today announced the approval of funding through the Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants (AFIG) program to support five alternative fuel projects that will save hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel and reduce air pollution in Pennsylvania.



2017					
Month	Hybrid (HEV)	Plug-In Hybrid (PHEV)	Battery (BEV)	Fuel Cell (FCEV)	Total Electric Drive:
January	22,584	5,687	5,398	127	33,796
February	28,355	6,247	5,846	142	40,590
March	32,012	7,384	10,166	143	49,705
April	30,949	7,095	5,961	145	44,150
May	33,758	8,522	8,037	285	50,602
June	30,089	7,787	8,814	180	46,870
July	29,056	7,407	7,802	165	44,430
August	34,850	7,668	8,835	127	51,480
September	37,319	7,719	13,421	201	58,660
October	29,451	6,665	6,773	252	43,141
November					
December					
	Hybrid Sales 2017 YTD: 308,423	PHEV Sales 2017 YTD: 72,181	BEV Sales 2017 YTD: 81,053	Fuel Cell Sales 2017 YTD: 1,767	Total Electric Drive Sales 2017 YTD: 463,424
					ALL Vehicle Segments 2017 YTD: 14,149,392
					Total Electric Drive Market Share: 3.28%

- Total # of Plug-In Vehicle Sales – mass market introduction in late 2010 to present: 710,625
 - Total # of Plug-In Vehicles Sold in 2017: 153,234
- Total # of Fuel Cell Vehicles Sold – limited market availability in January 2015 to present: 2,953
 - Total # of Fuel Cell Vehicles Sold in 2017: 1,767
 - Total # of Fuel Cell Vehicles Sold in 2016: 1,074
 - Total # of Fuel Cell Vehicles Sold in 2015 (limited market availability): 112

“Through the AFIG program, DEP is continuing to diversify the vehicles and fueling options in Pennsylvania, and reduce air pollution from vehicles,” said Governor Wolf. “These grants will not only help put more alternative fuel vehicles on the road, but also expand the infrastructure needed to make alternative fuel vehicles more viable for Pennsylvania businesses and families.”

More than \$1.1 million in grants were awarded across the two categories: Vehicle Projects and Refueling Infrastructure. The awards for vehicles will save approximately 136,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel annually. A full list of awardees is below.

Vehicle Projects:

Awardee: Derry Township School District

Project: The Derry Township School District Propane School Bus Conversion Initiative

County: Dauphin

Award Total: \$14,084

Number of Vehicles: 4

Estimated GGE saved per year: 2,936

Project Description: The Derry Township School District Propane School Bus Conversion Initiative, seeks \$14,084 in AFIG funding to help offset the cost of the purchase of four school buses that will run on propane fuel. The buses will be fueled at their bus depot, and the cost for conversion to propane is \$7,042 per bus.

Awardee: DMJ Transportation Inc.

Project: Ride the Green Bus at Greensburg Salem School District

County: Westmoreland

Award Total: \$74,400

Number of Vehicles: 24

Estimated GGE saved per year: 48,000

Project Description: DMJ Transportation is requesting \$74,400 in AFIG funding to purchase of 24 72-passenger propane buses. Vehicles will be fueled at a local facility, who has agreed to install propane dispensers. The fueling station is accessible to the public via fleet cards.

Awardee: WW Transport Inc.

Project: Camphill CNG Conversion Initiative

County: Cumberland

Award Total: \$140,000

Number of Vehicles: 7

Estimated GGE saved per year: 114,000

Project Description: WW Transport is seeking \$140,000 in AFIG funding to purchase seven vehicles for its fleet to run on CNG at an incremental cost of \$50k and grant request of \$20,000 per vehicle. WW Transport will be utilizing Mobile Fueling Solutions' delivery service to fuel their vehicles in Camp Hill.

Refueling Infrastructure Projects:

Awardee: Trillium Transportation Fuels, LLC

Project: Trillium CNG Lancaster Station

County: Lancaster

Award Total: \$500,000

Project Description: Trillium CNG is requesting \$500,000 in AFIG funds to construct a public access CNG fueling station at 202 Greenfield Road in Lancaster, PA. The station will initially serve the City of Lancaster. In a five-year period, the project is estimated to reduce 39.92 tons of NOx, 3,86428 metric tons of GHG emissions, and displace 1.3 million gallons of conventional petroleum fuel.

Awardee: Valley Waste Service Inc.

Project: Valley Waste Service- Public and Fleet CNG Fueling Station

County: Beaver

Award Total: \$400,000

Project Description: Valley Waste Service, a waste hauler subsidiary of Vogel Holding, Inc., is requesting \$400,000 in AFIG funds to construct an on-site CNG fueling station to allow fleet vehicles access to CNG fueling at their home location. This station will be owned by Valley Waste Service and will be available to the general public.

The primary goals of the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program are to improve Pennsylvania's air quality and reduce consumption of imported oil through the use of alternative fuels that will help Pennsylvania's economy and environment. DEP accepts applications for innovative, advanced fuel and vehicle technology projects, resulting in a cleaner and greener transportation sector in Pennsylvania. The AFIG Fund was established under Act 166 of 1992 and is administered by DEP's Office of Policy.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

QUIETER SCHOOL BUSES

Every morning, millions of kids start their day on the school bus. Once it pulls away from the curb, students' safety is in the hands of their bus driver. But on a noisy diesel school bus, a driver may be unable to hear critically important situations happening in their rearview mirror or outside.



What Educators are Saying About Propane Buses: "The buses are so quiet. When our wheelchair buses are picking up, outside the bus the ambient noise level is about 90 decibels for a diesel bus. It's so noisy that you can't hear yourself think. [Propane buses] can really reduce the stress level in a chaotic situation."

— **Peter Crossan**, *fleet and compliance manager, Department of Transportation, Boston Public Schools*

"The drivers like it. They like the quietness of them."

— **Kathy Houk**, *transportation administrator, Reynolds School District*

"Propane buses are extremely quiet which played a role for our drivers and students on the bus. Our drivers can hear more and be more aware of what is going on inside the bus instead of trying to hear over a loud diesel engine."

— **Pat Mitchell**, *director of transportation, Mobile County Public School System*

- "It's just so quiet. The kids aren't so noisy; they don't have to talk so loud. And for me, now I can hear what's on the outside [of the bus], too."

— **Carol Patchen**, *driver, St. Francis Independent School District 15*

"You can hear [the passengers] and they can hear you."

— **Dave Anderson**, *director of transportation & fleet, Adams 12 Five Star Schools*



Discovery Channel Documentary Spotlights Biodiesel

HOT GREASE Debuts On-Air November 16

November 10, 2017

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – They've been following us around for almost two years. Now, finally, the story of biodiesel will be shared with a large, national audience as Discovery's HOT GREASE makes its on-air debut Thursday, November 16th.

"I don't know if the film crew fully appreciated the scope of what they were stepping into when biodiesel first piqued their interest," said Jessica Robinson, Director of Communications at the National Biodiesel Board. "Not surprisingly, biodiesel's story - the amazing entrepreneurs and dedicated workers who make that story so powerful - pulled them in. HOT GREASE will share a glimpse into that story with Discovery viewers, showcasing what the industry is about and what we're up against."

In its broadcast release, Discovery previewed the story of HOT GREASE as: "Set in Houston, Texas in the shadow of the nation's oil industry,

HOT GREASE tells the surprising story of how the biodiesel industry is turning an ostensibly worthless raw material—spent kitchen grease—into a renewable energy source capable of fueling cars, buses and fleets of trucks throughout the country. But, powerful forces are working to stop that from happening. Featuring innovators, entrepreneurs, grease collectors and supporters like Senator Al Franken (D-MN) and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), HOT GREASE follows the battle for biodiesel’s future and its very survival.”

Footage from National Biodiesel Board member meetings and events appears in the film, as well as interviews with several familiar faces in biodiesel, including Robinson; former Senator Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) and Gene Gebolys, founder and CEO of World Energy.

The Discovery Impact documentary HOT GREASE debuts Thursday, November 16 at 9pm ET/PT on Discovery, following its premiere at the prestigious DOC NYC festival. The film will be available on Discovery Go and Discovery On Demand on November 17.

“Biodiesel is a solution to many of our country’s biggest issues—job losses, air pollution and energy insecurity,” said Sen. Dorgan. “This fuel embodies the ingenuity and entrepreneurship that this nation is all about, so I’m glad that there is now a new way to elevate biodiesel awareness with the American people.”

“Biodiesel is a driving economic force for many rural communities and supports more than 64,000 good-paying, clean energy jobs across the country. This is an outstanding opportunity for Discovery viewers to get a glimpse into that industry and what it represents. For us, this is an exceptional platform to bring biodiesel to the general consumer audience in a whole new way,” said Robinson.



New NREL Report:

The Barriers to Acceptance of Plug-in Electric Vehicles: 2017 Update

Vehicle manufacturers, government agencies, universities, private researchers, and organizations worldwide are pursuing advanced vehicle technologies that aim to reduce the consumption of petroleum in the forms of gasoline and diesel. Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) are one such technology. Produced by the National Renewable Energy Lab details findings from a study of broad American public sentiments toward issues that surround PEVs.

No More Black Smoke Around Students

Propane autogas buses present an opportunity to clean up the air around your district's students, drivers, and other personnel every school day. In contrast, diesel engine exhaust is a carcinogen identified by the World Health Organization. Students who use wheelchairs and younger students are especially vulnerable to the effects of diesel exhaust. Propane autogas buses have no detectable odor, and will not aggravate asthma or other breathing-related issues



Penske offers fleets to rent a compressed natural gas truck



January 12, 2018. In partnership with the US Department of Energy, Penske is offering fleets the opportunity for an extended test drive of a compressed natural gas (CNG) truck before buying or leasing. Through this program, CNG trucks are available at the same price as a comparable diesel truck. Penske ensures a smooth rental experience by providing training resources and 24/7 roadside assistance. The program began November 1, 2016 and will conclude on July 15, 2018. The project, which includes a CNG heavy-duty truck, is currently available in just three regions in the U.S.

The CNG rental truck is a 2015 Freightliner Cascadia (ISX12G engine, 400HP, Allison 6 speed auto). The vehicle can operate at 80,000 pounds and carries 116 DGEs (approximate range of 400 miles).

Despite major advances in the deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, adaptation of this technology remains challenging. Penske has seen first-hand the challenges faced by some customers to make their deployment in everyday operations a reality. Most operators are unwilling to buy a vehicle to evaluate fitness for operation in their fleets. This program will allow fleets to test drive the vehicles themselves for an extended period of time before buying or leasing, thus minimizing risk and cost to the operators.



PITT OHIO Receives US EPA 2017 SmartWay® Excellence Award

PITT OHIO was honored with a SmartWay® Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an industry leader in freight supply chain environmental performance and energy efficiency. PITT OHIO reduced carbon emissions per shipment, added 9 more compressed natural gas (CNG) tractors to its fleet for a total of 29 and added energy efficient trailer skirts to their entire trailer pool.



CNG Tractor

Director of Sustainability and BICC, Justine Russo said, “With our 180 rooftop solar panels and WindStax™ wind turbine at our Pittsburgh terminal, we estimate that 180-200 kWh/day is being generated from renewable energy sources. We are excited by the future of renewable energy and look to further prove out this concept with upcoming construction products.”

PITT OHIO invests in the planet by committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a per shipment basis while growing its business. PITT OHIO leverages sustainability initiatives to take cost out of the operation by boosting its fleet’s MPG performance and efficiency and improved MPG performance significantly lowers the company’s operating expense.

“Our commitment to sustainability enables our customers to grow their businesses and reduce their supply chain costs because if PITT OHIO operates more efficiently, we’re able to bring high performance and high value solutions to our customers

,” Chief Marketing Officer Geoff Muessig said. “We will further engage with our customers on sustainability and with work them to develop specific customer carbon reports.

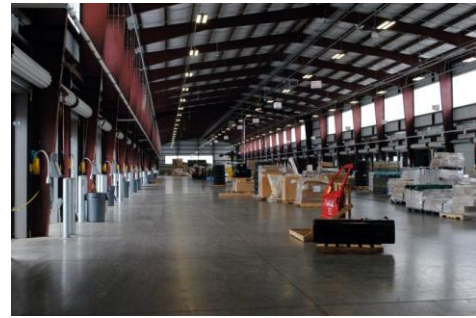
PITT OHIO was one of 62 companies to receive this distinction, representing the best environmental performers of SmartWay’s 3600 Partners. The Excellence Awardees were honored at the American Trucking Associations Management & Exhibition Annual Conference held in Orlando, Florida on October 23, 2017.

The PITT OHIO Terminal, located at 1 Rich Hill Road, Cheswick PA, 15024, has received enough points to officially certify the location as LEED Gold. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Certification requires a building to meet certain sustainability standards in water, energy, and material usage efficiency, all of which the terminal has met and surpassed

The terminal received points to achieve the Gold Level Certification in six of the eight LEED categories including, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Innovation & Design. Out of a possible 60 points needed to obtain a Gold ranking, the terminal received 63 on the LEED scale

The 55,000 square foot terminal, responsible for servicing the Pittsburgh region, utilizes a low-emitting Energy Star roof positioned to reflect the highest percentage of the sun’s rays, cooling the surrounding area and lowering air conditioning costs. 150 LED lights are used in replacement of incandescent, saving about \$2,000 a year in electricity. A geothermal well was put in place to utilize the Earth’s temperature as a heat source in the winter and a heat sink in the summer. The project also uses renewable solar and wind energy with a 60kw photovoltaic array and a WindStax Turbine. The energy cost savings, when all forms of innovation are taken into account, are over 45% when compared to a conventional building. The Pittsburgh terminal is the company's second LEED Gold certified building

. The 22,000 square foot Maintenance Shop Building located on the same campus received Gold distinction in late 2016.



Pitt Ohio Terminal Harbor location



WindStax Turbine

The entire site uses sustainable landscaping including bioswales, or man-made elements placed to remove pollutants and dirt from runoff, and drought tolerant native plants to cut down on water usage and prevent flooding. Low-flow appliances and fixtures are also projected to save over 30% of the water that conventional fixtures would use in the same buildings



WindStax Battery Storage



ZENITH ELECTRIC BUS - 100% ELECTRIC

SPECIFICATIONS

- Distance: ~100 miles
- Seats: 23 with capacity for 38
- Battery Size: 118 kWh
- Charging System: 13 kW
- Braking: Air brakes with regenerative braking
- Air Conditioner & heater
- Telematics package
- Wireless maintenance

VEHICLE DIMENSIONS

- Vehicle Length: 26'
- Vehicle Width: 88"
- Vehicle Height: 11'6"
- Wheelbase: 165"



Zenith-Motors.com

800-630-9833

Sales@Zenith-Motors.com

Thankful for Our Nation's Propane School Buses

Todd Mouw, vice president of sales and marketing

Did you know that school buses are the largest form of mass transportation in the nation? More than 26 million students are transported daily in school buses. They keep 17 million cars off the roads each year, and students are 70 times more likely to get to school safely by riding in a school bus than traveling by car.

Each year, my colleagues and I attend key student transportation shows, such as School Transportation News Expo and the National Association of Pupil Transportation's Annual Conference. These shows remind me of just how important school bus drivers, school transportation directors, bus maintenance staff, etc., are — and how these people directly impact our children's lives. These are the folks who keep almost half a million school buses operating safely on a daily basis.

Nearly 13,000 of those school buses are fueled by propane autogas, and the U.S. has a substantial supply of propane to keep them moving. In fact, we have such a surplus of propane that the Energy Information Administration says the U.S. currently has a stock of 80 million barrels. Last week, we produced 1.85 million barrels per day and exported half of that.

Let's use this domestic energy source to fuel more buses. Propane autogas school buses are safe, clean, quiet and economical. Communities that choose them are supporting cleaner air, a quieter environment for students and drivers, more energy security and reduced fuel and maintenance costs.

The Propane Education & Research Council recently awarded an elementary school in northern California with a \$5,000 donation for classroom materials. The school district says they chose buses fueled by propane autogas to maintain "good stewardship of economical and environmental resources." PERC has donated \$75,000 in the past few years to encourage and support communities choosing to fuel with propane.

To learn more about ROUSH CleanTech's propane autogas fuel system technology that powers Blue Bird Vision Propane school buses and Ford commercial vehicles, please visit

www.roushcleantech.com.



Now Westmoreland transit can fuel growing fleet of natural gas buses

STEPHEN HUBA | Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017

The only thing holding up the use of six new natural gas-fueled buses by the Westmoreland County Transit Authority is a license plate. The gleaming 57-seat buses stand ready to replace six older, diesel vehicles now that a compressed natural gas, or CNG, fueling station is online.

The transit authority held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday to officially open the station. Local dignitaries watched as a technician filled up one of the new MCI Commuter Coach buses with the CNG fuel.

“This gives us the opportunity to capitalize on the abundance of natural gas right here in Western Pennsylvania,” said Frank Tosto, transit authority board chairman. “The fuel is literally underfoot.”

Transit authority Executive Director Alan Blahovec said the buses will be put into service within a week, once the license plates arrive.

Although passengers will hardly notice a difference, the benefits of natural gas over diesel are threefold — a lower noise level, greater fuel efficiency and environmental improvements, he said.

“It's a much cleaner-burning fuel,” Blahovec said. “While the savings isn't as great today as it might have been a couple years ago, when diesel was much higher, CNG costs seem to stay pretty stable over time.”

The transit authority expects to save more than \$400,000 a year, based on current diesel costs and diesel and gas usage of 415,000 gallons per year, according to PennDOT.

The Westmoreland project is part of an \$84.5 million statewide project to convert 29 public transit agencies from diesel to natural gas by 2021. Funding came from the PennDOT Public-Private Partnership, or P3, project.

“We're blessed to have the relationship that we have with PennDOT. It is truly a partnership,” Tosto said, noting there was no cost to the county taxpayer.

Westmoreland is the seventh of nine facilities that will complete their conversion this year. Seven more are planned for 2018, said Scott Zeevaart of engineering consultant Gannett Fleming.

Zeevaart said the participating agencies will realize \$10 million in fuel savings a year once all of them are online.

“Those lower operational costs you can turn into more services for your constituents,” he said.

The Westmoreland component included modifications to the Hempfield maintenance facility and the installation of the filling station by Trillium CNG, a Salt Lake City company that will operate the stations for the state.

The transit authority approved the purchase of the six buses, using mostly state and federal funds, in January. The cost per bus was \$667,566, officials said.

Five smaller CNG buses are on order for 2018, and the transit authority has funding for 11 more.

“By the end of 2018, we're hoping that half of our fleet will be CNG,” Blahovec said.

The goal is for the entire fleet of 25 diesel buses and 16 paratransit buses to be CNG fueled — something the transit authority anticipated when it opened the Hempfield facility five years ago, Tosto said.

“We built it so the transition to CNG would be more seamless,” he said.

Supplying the natural gas to the station is Peninsula Energy Services Co., which acquired the assets of ARM Energy Management earlier this year.

To view video click here
<http://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/13049678-74/now-westmoreland-transit-can-fuel-growing-fleet-of-natural-gas-buses>



Westmoreland Transit CNG Bus Being refueled with CNG

PRCC Sustainable Members

PLATINUM MEMBERS



GOLD MEMBERS



SILVER 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/membership/>



The Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Board of Directors would like to thank all of our members and stakeholders for supporting our coalition and mission!



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

