Clean Cities
Alternative Fuel Information Series

Clean Cities
National Partner Awards

May 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY,
OFFICE of ENERGY EFFICIENCY and RENEWABLE ENERGY

Clean Cities National Partner Awards

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the alternative fuels and vehicle industries, 10 organizations earned Clean Cities National Partner Awards and induction into the Clean Cities Hall of Fame at the 6th National Clean Cities Conference in May 2000. The awards recognize companies, organizations, cities, and states that strive to make widespread alternative fuel use a reality in communities throughout the United States.

The Winners' Circle

City of Dallas

Dallas, Texas, started its compressed natural gas (CNG) program in 1992 and has since promoted the growth of a public alternative fuels infrastructure and encouraged other fleets to use natural gas. Setting an excellent example for communities across the country struggling with air pollution problems, the city itself has purchased or converted more than 500 vehicles that run on CNG, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and electricity. These AFVs fill up at the 28 public refueling sites in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Continuing to build on that record, the city recently placed an order for 335 additional CNG vehicles.

Deere Power Systems Group

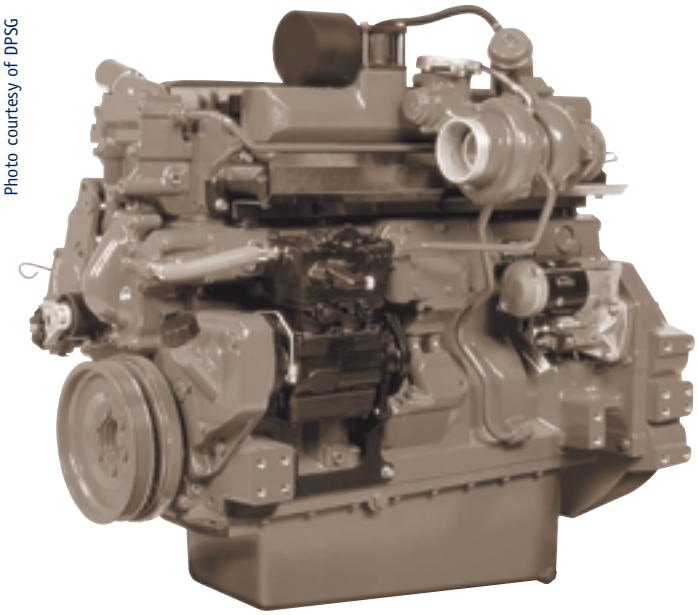
Public and private fleets across the United States are now enjoying the many benefits of clean driving, thanks to Deere Power Systems Group (DPSG) in Waterloo, Iowa. A leader in its industry, DPSG offers advanced technology, medium-duty CNG engines in applications for school buses, shuttle buses, transit buses, and Class 6 and 7 trucks. Instead of modifying

Photo by Kevin Chandler/PIX 07189

Multiple-use fuel lines surround an LNG Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) bus at the fueling bay. Contributing to Dallas' strong commitment to alternative fuels, DART owns 139 LNG buses and plans to purchase more.

diesel engines, DPSG designed and built the CNG engines from the ground up. With more than 800 engines sold since 1996, this proven technology is delivering low emissions, unsurpassed reliability, low operating costs, and significantly quieter operation than diesel engines. The 6.8- and 8.1-liter CNG engines are certified to the EPA and California Air Resources Board Optional Low NO_x Emission Standards.

Photo courtesy of DPSG



Deere Power Systems Group builds advanced CNG engines for school buses, shuttle buses, transit buses, and Class 6 and 7 trucks.

East Ohio Gas Company

A key stakeholder in the Northeast Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition, the East Ohio Gas Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Dominion, started using vehicles that run on CNG nearly two decades ago. Based in Cleveland, it now has 614 CNG vehicles in northeast Ohio and expects to increase that number to 700 by next year. In total, the Dominion companies operate more than 1,300 alternative fuel vehicles in Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. East Ohio Gas operates 12 fueling stations for its own fleet and supports an additional 30 stations for external customers.

Harris Ranch

In the spirit of good environmental stewardship, one of the largest agribusiness operations in California last year deployed 12 LNG Class 8 trucks and opened a public access LNG refueling station in Coalinga, California. Harris Ranch's new delivery trucks, which replaced diesel tractors, travel more than a million miles and are expected to displace approximately 10 tons of particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen emissions each year. By switching to LNG, Harris Ranch reduced its fuel costs by about 3-5 cents per mile, which translates to an impressive savings of $45,000 a year considering the current price of diesel fuel. Its public refueling station helps facilitate the deployment of additional clean fuel vehicles throughout the region.

Lower Merion School District

Thanks to the district's 60 CNG buses, many students in the Lower Merion School District now enjoy a clean ride to school. Based in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, the district purchased its first CNG bus in 1996. It plans to add five more CNG buses to its fleet this year, bringing its natural gas total to an impressive 65%. An active stakeholder in the Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program, the Lower Merion School District recently surpassed two million miles of alternatively fueled travel. It plans to add an additional 13 CNG buses by 2005.

Photo by John Kubesh/PIX 04151

The Lower Merion School District uses 60 CNG buses and plans to add five more to its fleet this year.

Newspaper Agency Corporation

The Newspaper Agency Corporation in Salt Lake City, Utah, delivers two daily newspapers with a combined circulation of nearly 200,000. A shining example of a successful alternative fuel niche market, the company's fleet of 255 vehicles includes 232 natural gas vans that log about six million miles a year and save the company thousands of dollars in fuel costs. This progressive organization is working

toward running its entire fleet on natural gas. In addition to providing volunteer leadership in the Salt Lake Clean Cities Coalition, the company partnered with the coalition to produce three newspaper sections dedicated to air quality, transportation, and the environmental effects of urban growth. The educational sections were distributed to more than 450,000 students across the state.

Questar Gas Company

A proven leader in the natural gas industry, the Questar Gas Company in Utah operates 640 alternative fuel vehicles and 22 public and 63 private refueling sites. Thanks to Questar, the region boasts the fourth largest natural gas and propane infrastructure in the United States. The forward-thinking company was instrumental in initiating a Clean Cities Program

Photo courtesy of Questar Gas Company

Questar Gas Company CNG vehicles fill up at public and private refueling stations throughout Utah, southwestern Wyoming, and southeastern Idaho.

in Salt Lake City. In an effort to spread the good news about the environmental and financial benefits of natural gas, the company offers alternative fuel vehicle test drives to fleet managers and provides alternative fuel information to elected officials, fleet managers, business people, and schools. Questar Gas has delivered natural gas to residential, commercial and industrial customers throughout Utah, southwestern Wyoming and southeastern Idaho for nearly 70 years.

Regional Transportation Commission of Clark County

The Regional Transportation Commission of Clark County, based in Las Vegas, Nevada, runs its entire handicapped-accessible 135-vehicle paratransit fleet on CNG. The commission plans to purchase more alternative fuel buses in the future. It owns six CNG refueling stations, four of which are open to the public.

State of Arizona

The state of Arizona passed an incentive package for alternative fuel vehicles that surpasses that of any other state. The package was passed with strong support from Jeff Groscost, speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives; the State Energy Office; Maricopa Association of Governments Clean Cities Coalition; and Tucson Clean Cities Coalition. The financial incentives include: tax credits for alternative fuel vehicles (up to $10,000 for purchasing a new AFV and up to $5,000 for a conversion) and refueling stations; 98% reduction in AFV license taxes; and exemption from state and local sales taxes for AFV purchases.

Yellow-Checker-Star Transportation

Yellow-Checker-Star Transportation in Las Vegas, Nevada, operates 585 propane-powered taxis that travel 50 million miles per year. As a long-time champion of alternative fuels, the company first used alternative fuel vehicles in 1981, and has since converted more than 2,000 vehicles to clean-burning fuels. Its 1,700 employees are knowledgeable about the environmental benefits of alternative fuels. Committed to a cleaner environment, the company estimates its use of alternative fuels displaced 800 tons of particulate matter and carbon monoxide in 1999.

Photo courtesy of Yellow-Checker-Star Transportation

Yellow-Checker-Star Transportation, the largest taxi business in Nevada, operates its entire fleet on propane. Star-Limousine, a new limousine service started by Yellow-Checker-Star Transportation, will eventually convert all of its limousines to propane.

About Clean Cities...

The Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government and industry partnership. The program, now in its seventh year, seeks to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel in order to reduce dependence on imported oil, lessen air pollution, and increase public awareness about the benefits of using alternative fuels over gasoline and diesel. Almost 80 coalitions and some 3,800 stakeholders have joined to support the Clean Cities Program.

Now in their fourth year, the Clean Cities Coalition Awards recognize outstanding achievements in building coalitions, promoting and increasing alternative fuel vehicle use, developing AFV infrastructure, and supporting alternative fuel and AFV legislation.

For more information, you can

- call the Clean Cities Hotline at 1-800-CCITIES
- visit the Clean Cities Web site at
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  or
- e-mail the Clean Cities Hotline at
  ccities@nrel.gov

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