



Green Fleet News

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2001

Did You Know:

Most of the Illinois Green Fleets to date are small businesses!

The retail price of E-85 in Illinois costs about the same or up to 15 cents less per gallon than gasoline.

During the past two years, natural gas and propane for motor vehicles have cost significantly less than gasoline

Many Americans drive AFVs, in the form of E-85 flexible-fuel vehicles, and don't even know it!

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Illinois EPA Kicks Off Illinois Green Fleets Program

Welcome to the first edition of *Green Fleet News*. The Illinois Green Fleets Program is a fleet recognition, public relations and marketing program where Illinois businesses and government units that are using clean, domestic, alternative fuels in their fleet operation can be designated as a "Green Fleet." The program not only highlights and provides marketing opportunities for our green fleets, but it also provides a valuable resource for fleet managers and other interested persons in Illinois and across the country to learn of the experiences of operating a Green Fleet.

Those that become Green Fleets are in a win-win situation. These businesses and local governments are leading the way by promoting clean air and domestic energy security. More importantly, based on their experiences, green fleets typically save money in the form of lower fuel and maintenance costs and longer vehicle life. This empowers fleet managers in implementing a cost-effective and feasible way for the company to increase profitability or for the local government to



spend less of the taxpayers' money. The information presented in the Illinois Green Fleets Program includes the types of vehicles and their function in the fleet, the fuels being used, the type of infrastructure to refuel the vehicles, the capital costs, the short- and long-term fuel and maintenance cost benefits, vehicle performance, and other issues of interest to fleet managers. Through the newsletters, website, conference tables, speeches and presentations, our Green Fleets will serve as information resources for others.

Check out our Green Fleets and Much More at www.illinoisgreenfleets.org

Read about our Green Fleets and find some "eye-opening" information on their experiences with alternative fuels. Also, find out what the auto manufacturers are offering with clean, alternative fuel vehicles (AFV), see where the retail and private fuel sites are located in Illinois, get information on contacts in the auto and fuel industries, federal, state, and

local government resources, and where you can get vehicle and infrastructure funding. Several interesting links will also be provided. This website is a work in progress, so please be patient as it will be updated frequently. The website will be a "one-stop-shop" for all of the alternate fuel information in Illinois.

17 Illinois Green Fleets are First to be Designated at Two Recognition Events

The Illinois Green Fleets Program was officially kicked off in Chicago on June 6. Along with the Partners for Clean Air and the Chicago Area Clean Cities coalitions, the Illinois EPA hosted a recognition breakfast at the Chicago Omni Hotel for those businesses and local governments that have made significant contributions to improving air quality in the Chicago region. Chicago area fleets that received their Illinois Green Fleet designation included: Advance Presort Service (Chicago), Brookfield Zoo (Brookfield), Burkardt's LP Gas (Polo), College of Lake County (Grayslake), Connie's Pizza (Chicago), El Milagro (Chicago), Lansing Cleaners (Lansing), Mid America Energy (Schiller Park), Nicor (Naperville), Peoples Energy (Chicago), University of Illinois at Chicago, and the Village of Northbrook. A second recognition ceremony was held as part of the "Driving Green in

Illinois: A Clean Fuels Conference" held at Argonne National Laboratory on October 25. Fleets being designated as Green Fleets at Argonne included Hollub Heating, Inc. (Chicago), Illinois Corn Growers Association (Bloomington), Illinois Power (Decatur), Schwan's (Statewide), and Springfield Mass Transit District (Springfield). Of the Green Fleets to date, with some using more than one alternative fuel, eleven use natural gas, four use propane, three use 85% ethanol (E-85), and one uses electricity. The breakdown by category includes six small businesses, three utilities, two non-profit organizations, two schools, two large businesses, and two government agencies. Many other fleets are working towards future designation as they acquire more vehicles.



Illinois Green Fleets Program designation plaque

Chicago Area Fleets Hear What it Takes to be a Green Fleet

The Chicago Area Clean Cities coalition, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Illinois EPA hosted "Driving Green in Illinois: A Clean Fuels Conference" at Argonne on October 25, 2001. Shelley Launey, Director of the Clean Cities Program at the U.S. Department of Energy, was the morning keynote speaker. Ms. Launey provided her perspective on the fuel cost savings with alternative fuels and also added her insight on the impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks and security concerns related to our imported energy supplies. The Forest Preserve

"The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Springfield Mass Transit, El Milagro, and Illinois Power discussed their experiences with clean, alternative fuels and AFVs."

District of DuPage County, Springfield Mass Transit, El Milagro, and Illinois Power discussed their experiences with clean, alternative fuels and AFVs.

The afternoon breakout sessions included discussions on economics, vehicle and infrastructure issues, and AFV offerings from the auto manufacturers. State Rep. Philip Novak received the "Clean Fuels Champion" award from Chicago Area Clean Cities for his work on the Clean Fuels Illinois bill. Rep. Novak also spoke about his views on the importance of domestic fuels and their economic and environmental value to Illinois.

Over \$880,000 and Counting...Illinois EPA Issues More Rebate Checks for Natural Gas, Propane, E-85, and Electric Vehicles

With the Illinois Alternate Fuels Rebate Program, the Illinois EPA has issued more than \$880,000 since February 2000 for 257 AFVs acquired by 51 applicants throughout Illinois. Whether you are a Green Fleet, a private citizen, or a company that just bought its first AFV, the Illinois EPA will reimburse 80% of the incremental cost of an AFV or the cost of a conversion up to \$4,000 per vehicle. The primary requirement is that the vehicle be purchased or converted in Illinois.

To date, rebates have been issued for natural gas, propane, and electric vehicles as well as for E-85 fuel. The Rebate Program continues through December 2002; however, amendments have been proposed by the Illinois General Assembly to continue the program indefinitely.

If you have questions about the Rebate Program or would like to request an application, please contact Mary Cruse or Darwin Burkhart at (217) 557-1441.

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Makes Headlines with AFV Announcement

This past summer, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPD) in the western suburbs of Chicago made regional and national news with its announcement that it plans to be a 100% alternative fuel fleet within 10 years. It is the only fleet in Illinois of its size, and perhaps the only one in the country, that has made such a commitment to change over the entire fleet operation with clean, domestic fuels. "We're making a commitment here to do this," said James Healey, who heads the operations committee that approved the measure. The FPD has already acquired natural gas and ethanol vehicles, and is preparing to seek funding for infrastructure. Under the ten-year plan, the FPD will replace 16 vehicles per year in its 161 unit fleet with AFVs. The AFVs will include police cars, sedans, vans, pickups and larger trucks. In order to meet the 100% objective, the FPD will be using four alternative fuels: propane, natural gas, E-85, and biodiesel. To accommodate all of the vehicles in its county-wide park system,

the FPD will be installing four propane stations, two natural gas stations and will use private and retail E-85 sites as well as acquire biodiesel fuel. The FPD estimates that the savings in fuel and maintenance costs will approach \$650,000 over the first ten years. While the capital costs for the vehicles and infrastructure will be about \$1.8 million, the FPD expects that state rebates and federal grants will offset much of these costs.

By using clean fuels and saving the DuPage County taxpayers money, FPD will someday be the greenest of Green Fleets. The cleaner vehicles will result in 280,000 pounds of pollutants such as hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides being taken out of the air. According to John Oldenburg, Manager of Grounds and Resources, "imagine a 10,000-ton pile of dirt that is spread across the county and into its air. With the cleaner cars, that dirt is gone." Mr. Oldenburg credits the state incentives and Chicago Area Clean Cities with motivating the FPD to take this path.

Chicago Area Clean Cities Receives Another \$2.5 Million in Alternate Fuel Infrastructure Funding for Grant Program

As part of the Chicago Area Infrastructure Network Program developed by Chicago Area Clean Cities, the City of Chicago, and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Chicago area received another \$2.5 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding from the federal government.

This is in addition to the \$2 million received for the program two years ago that went towards nine natural gas infrastructure sites.

"This is in addition to the \$2 million received for the program two years ago..."

The funding is only available for local governments or government units (school districts, park districts, etc.) in the six-county Chicago area. While grant applications must be submitted by a unit of government, other local governments or private sector organizations may establish a partnership in committing to using the fuel site. Grant

application timelines should be announced by December 2001. For more information, please contact Carol Brown, Coordinator of Chicago Area Clean Cities, at (312) 744-7200.

Chicago E-85 Program Working on the "Corn-Powered Corridor" and Mail Delivery

The Illinois Corn Growers Association and the Chicago E-85 Program were awarded a portion of a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to help establish an E-85 corridor from Indiana to Minnesota. Illinois received \$150,000 for three E-85 sites while Indiana and Minnesota each received \$75,000 for one site.



This grant will bring the number of public E-85 sites in northeastern Illinois to fourteen. In addition, the Chicago E-85 Program has already established ten retail E-85 sites in the Chicago area at certain Clark, Marathon, Gas City, and Kean Oil stations. These E-85 pumps came about by a commitment from the U.S. Postal Service to use E-85 fuel in over 500 of their mail delivery vehicles. The added benefit is that anyone with a E-85 vehicle can use these stations. For more information, contact John Van Pelt at (630) 427-1040.

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*“Green Environment, Green
Energy, and \$Green Economics\$”*

www.illinoisgreenfleets.org

Green Fleet Feature: Springfield Mass Transit District Finds Itself in the Spotlight

The Springfield Mass Transit District (SMTD) is the first mass transit agency and amongst the first in Illinois to receive their Green Fleet designation from the Illinois EPA. Soon after their designation, the SMTD was featured by several local radio stations and in Springfield's newspaper, the *State-Journal Register*, as having a fleet of clean and “green” buses in our capital city. Governor George Ryan visited the Illinois EPA to talk to SMTD administrators and got on board one of the natural gas buses in recognition of their accomplishments. In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy highlighted the SMTD in its October 2000 edition of *Alternative Fuel News* as one of only 17 mass transit agencies in the U.S. that is turning its fleet over to a clean, alternative fuel. The SMTD was one of a handful of small mass transit agencies recognized by the Department of Energy.

The SMTD operates 19 natural gas buses and has a fast-fill natural gas refueling site adjacent to its maintenance facility. In the past year alone, it acquired 11 new natural gas-powered buses and service vehicles.

It is admirable and progressive for the SMTD to replace the diesel buses with those powered by natural gas, considering Springfield is the state capital and hundreds of thousands of tourists visit the hometown of Abraham Lincoln each year. These tourists come to see the Lincoln Home Historical Site and the surrounding 19th Century neighborhood operated by the U.S. National Park Service, the historic Old State Capitol where Lincoln gave his famous “House Divided” speech, his law offices, as well as the Lincoln Tomb in scenic Oak Ridge cemetery. In addition, the Dana-Thomas House, built by world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is a popular attraction. The SMTD adds to the attractiveness, historic preservation, and quality of life in Springfield by not being “visible” to tourists and citizens with buses that have sooty emissions. The buses are attractive, comfortable, and spacious, and patrons have remarked to SMTD drivers that they appreciate the “nice ride.” As our guests from around the country and throughout the world come to experience Lincoln, the SMTD assures that they will also experience clean air.