



Green Fleet News

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Did You Know?

The U.S. Postal Service is now using E-85 in over 500 delivery vehicles in the Chicago suburbs of Elgin, Bartlett, Elmhurst, Mt. Prospect, Palatine, Evanston, and Bensenville.

Becker's BP Amoco, located about 60 miles southwest of Chicago at I-55 and Highway 47 (Exit 220) in Dwight, Illinois, will be selling E-85 for the state fleet and other users this coming winter.

The Clinton, Eureka, Olympia, Fieldcrest, and Enfield/Norris City school districts in central Illinois are using two percent biodiesel fuel blends in their school buses.

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EPA Administrator Whitman Visits El Milagro to Recognize its Green Fleet

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman recognized El Milagro, one of the Illinois EPA's 5-Star Illinois Green Fleets, at their facility in Chicago on September 30. El Milagro, a small business that manufactures various tortilla products, currently operates 24 of its 32 delivery trucks on propane and has its own propane refueling station. The company plans to have its entire fleet operating on propane in the near future. This recognition by Administrator Whitman comes at a time when the company is celebrating its 50th anniversary.



'miracle,' it isn't a miracle that you have been so successful, for your success is hard earned and well deserved. These fuel savings, combined with reduced maintenance requirements, makes the costs of retrofitting trucks a

sensible investment and the use of clean fuel a wise choice."



El Milagro reports that its cost for propane ranges from 60 cents to \$1 less per gallon versus using gasoline or diesel. When you consider that the delivery trucks average over 40,000 miles per year, the

savings resulting from reduced fuel prices and maintenance costs is significant. El Milagro emphasizes that the propane trucks perform very well and have had very few problems. This is important since the company's profits depend on timely deliveries to several grocery chains throughout the Chicago area and the Midwest. Read the updated information on El Milagro's fleet on the Illinois Green Fleets website.

"This Chicago institution is best known for its authentic and delicious tortillas and tortilla chips, but at EPA, we know El Milagro as a true environmental leader," said Administrator Whitman. "El Milagro has seen first hand that



sound environmental practices are also sound business practices. Even though your name 'El Milagro' means 'the



Manufacturers Announce Model Year 2003 AFVs

The following is the list of model year 2003 "green fleet vehicles" available in Illinois from the major auto manufacturers.

Ethanol (E-85) Flexible Fuel Vehicles

Ford Taurus sedan and wagon (3.0 liter)
 Ford Ranger (3.0 liter)
 Ford Explorer, Sport, and Sport Trac (4.0 liter)
 Mercury Sable (3.0 liter)
 Mercury Mountaineer (4.0 liter)
 Chevrolet Silverado (5.3 liter)
 Chevrolet Suburban (5.3 liter)
 Chevrolet Tahoe (5.3 liter)
 GMC Sierra (5.3 liter)
 GMC Yukon and Yukon XL (5.3 liter)
 Dodge Caravan (3.3 liter)
 Dodge Grand Caravan (3.3 liter)
 Chrysler Voyager (3.3 liter)
 Chrysler Town & Country (3.3 liter)
 Dodge Cargo minivan (3.3 liter)
 Dodge Stratus (2.7 liter)
 Chrysler Sebring sedan and convertible (2.7 liter)

Natural Gas

Ford Crown Victoria (dedicated)
 Ford F-150 (dedicated and bi-fuel)
 Ford E-250, E-350 vans & wagons (dedicated)
 Ford E-450 Super Duty Cutaway Chassis (dedicated)
 GMC Sierra (bi-fuel)
 GMC Savanna Van (bi-fuel and dedicated)
 Chevrolet Silverado (bi-fuel)
 Chevrolet Cavalier (bi-fuel)
 Chevrolet Express Van (bi-fuel and dedicated)
 Chevrolet Express Cutaway Van (dedicated)
 Dodge Ram Van & Club Wagon 2500 (dedicated)
 Honda Civic GX (dedicated)

Propane

Ford F-150 (bi-fuel)

Electric-Hybrids

Honda Civic
 Honda Insight
 Toyota Prius
 (Eligible for a federal tax credit up to \$2,000)

Lansing Cleaners Takes "Clean" Very Seriously

Lansing Cleaners of Lansing, Illinois is a family-owned dry-cleaning business with five locations in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. The company has been an environmental leader for small businesses in Illinois and in the Midwest.

Lansing Cleaners started converting its delivery trucks to natural gas in 1993 and currently has 6 CNG delivery trucks in its expanding natural gas vehicle fleet. It was one of the first small businesses in the Chicago area to implement clean, domestic fuels into its fleet and has been a model for other small businesses in Illinois to become interested in clean fuels. Lansing Cleaners is a charter member of the Illinois Green Fleets Program.

In addition to having a green fleet, Lansing Cleaners has initiated several voluntary environmental programs to lead the dry-cleaning industry in the Midwest. The business instituted more environmentally friendly measures in cleaning clothes, including using carbon dioxide and wet-cleaning machines, and implementing significant energy conservation measures.

For its efforts, Lansing Cleaners has been named the "Drycleaner of the Year" in Illinois in 1999 and 2001, received an award from the U.S. EPA, and also was given the Governor's Pollution Prevention Award in 2000 and 2002. Congratulations and thank you to Lansing Cleaners for helping to keep Illinois clean!

Chicago Police Department Has Green Patrol Cars

While many government programs for clean, alternative fuels and vehicles exempt "emergency vehicles" such as police cars, the Chicago Police Department has demonstrated that fuels such as natural gas are effective in helping to fight "crime & grime." The CPD has five model year 1999 natural gas-powered police pursuit vehicles in its fleet. Four of these vehicles are regular patrol vehicles, with lights and sirens, and the other is an unmarked vehicle used by detectives in surveillance work. The five vehicles are refueled at the public CNG station operated by Peoples Energy in downtown Chicago.

According to CPD officials, the vehicles have performed just as well as their gasoline counterparts. This being the case, the vehicles have been in service for over four years. In addition, the maintenance technicians have been encouraged by the durability and reliability of the vehicles, proving they belong in "police work."

The CPD could acquire more natural gas patrol vehicles for its fleet, but is looking for additional refueling sites in the City's various districts. Chicago has plans to increase the number of natural gas refueling sites in the future for its many departments.

Hot Dog! Kane County Cougars Highlight Natural Gas Vehicles at all Home Games

Unique to most professional sports franchises, outside of hockey teams and zambonies, a Chicago area baseball team highlights clean, domestic fuels at every home game. The Kane County Cougars minor league baseball team, a single "A" affiliate of the Oakland Athletics located in Geneva, Illinois, has its own green fleet: a natural gas-powered pickup used on the field during the games as well as a natural gas tram that services the parking lots. The converted natural gas pickup has been used by the club for the past six years and is prominently featured during all home games. Nicor, a natural gas utility in northern Illinois, is a corporate sponsor of the team and assisted the Cougars in acquiring the pickup and tram.

Before and after each home game, the pickup is on display near the stadium's main entrance for fans to view and to learn about natural gas vehicles. In the middle of the second inning, "Ozzie the Cougar" rides around the field in the back of the pickup, throwing frisbees, balls, t-shirts, and other souvenirs to the 8,000

to 10,000 fans that typically attend the Cougar games in the western Chicago suburbs. The PA announcer informs the fans that Ozzie is riding in the back of a clean natural gas vehicle that is good for the environment and is economical as well.

During games and other promotional events, the team also uses the pickup as a "hot dog stand." A natural gas grill is in the bed of the truck and is hooked up to the natural gas fuel cylinders on the vehicle. Eye-catching signage on the truck highlights this unusual feature with the slogan "Natural Gas: It Cooks your Dogs and Hauls your Buns."

The Kane County Cougars also acquired a natural gas-powered tram to shuttle fans from the parking lot to the front of the stadium. The tram also advertises the environmental benefits of the fuel. The Cougars have a slow-fill Fuelmaker unit that refuels both the pickup and the tram.

Congratulations to the Kane County Cougars and Nicor!

Status of Illinois Alternate Fuels Rebate Program Uncertain at this Time

The Illinois Alternate Fuels Rebate Program provides rebates for 80 percent of the incremental cost of the purchase of an AFV, a conversion to an AFV, or for the additional cost of ethanol (E-85) up to \$4,000 per vehicle. The program began in 1998 and is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2002. The Illinois EPA has issued nearly \$1.4 million to 80 businesses, local governments, and individuals resulting in the implementation of nearly 400 clean-fuel AFVs.

House Bill 2 was introduced to extend the Rebate Program indefinitely, and also add an Alternate Fuels Infrastructure grant program and a Clean Fuel Education campaign. HB 2 was approved by the Illinois

General Assembly in Spring 2002, but will need to be readdressed during the Fall session due to technical issues raised in Governor Ryan's amendatory veto.

If HB 2 is amended and passed, then the Illinois EPA will be authorized to continue to accept AFV rebate applications and issue rebates as funds are available. Without the amendments to HB 2, the program will expire and applications will need to be received by December 31, 2002.

All potential purchasers of AFVs and those that have previously applied for E-85 fuel rebates are encouraged to contact the Illinois EPA at 217-557-1441 for updated information on the status of the Rebate Program.

Illinois Green Fleet Vehicle Decals and Website Changes

The Illinois EPA now has Illinois Green Fleet vehicle decals to be applied to the exterior of green fleet vehicles. The decals are 6" x 16" with the program logo to the left and the type of vehicle (e.g., "Natural Gas Vehicle," "Ethanol (E-85) Vehicle," "Propane Vehicle," and "Biodiesel Vehicle") clearly stated. The decals have a useful life of 8 years and have a green border. The website address is printed in smaller lettering towards the bottom to enable the public to go to our website and read about your fleet. In addition, the program website

continues to be updated with pictures and more complete stories about each of our Illinois Green Fleets. Fleet features are now presented on the site's front page. The survey that needs to be completed to become an Illinois Green Fleet is now available on-line. If you are a business, organization, or government unit that has ethanol (E-85), natural gas, propane, biodiesel, electric, or hybrid vehicles in your fleet, please go to our website and submit the survey. To request decals or if you have questions, call 217-557-1441.

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“Green Environment, Green Energy, and Green Economics for a Green Illinois”

www.illinoisgreenfleets.org

Green Fleet Feature: Rock Island MetroLINK Brings Home the Gold with its New Buses

The Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District (“MetroLINK”) is the first fleet in the Quad Cities area to be designated an Illinois Green Fleet. This year, MetroLINK purchased 12 dedicated compressed natural gas (CNG) buses and plans to have 24 CNG buses in its 57-unit bus fleet by the end of 2004.

These buses are not typical buses, for they have performed on the world stage. In their Quad Cities debut this past Spring, the buses were used to shuttle spectators at the 2002 John Deere PGA Golf Classic. Before that, the buses were shuttling athletes and visitors around the different venues at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

Natural gas buses have often been used at major outdoor sporting events, such as the Olympics, to help maintain a healthy environment for the athletes. By withstanding the cold temperatures, biting winds, high altitudes, and mountainous terrain experienced at the Olympics, MetroLINK officials have no doubts about their performance and durability in the Quad Cities.



Unique to most Green Fleets, MetroLINK is supporting a major company based in its own backyard with its bus purchases. Each bus contains a natural gas engine manufactured by John Deere, whose world headquarters is in Moline. MetroLINK is the first mass transit agency to use the John Deere CNG engines in new buses. The natural gas engines reduce air toxic emissions by 70 to 85 percent, particulate matter (the pollutant that appears as “sooty emissions”) by 90 percent and nitrogen oxides by 50 percent. Therefore, these buses will not have the visible emissions experienced with the older buses.

The City of Moline hosts the natural gas station used by MetroLINK to refuel the buses. The cost of natural gas is only 46 cents per equivalent gallon, compared to 90 cents for diesel fuel. In serving as a model for public-private partnerships, MetroLINK worked with John Deere, the City of Moline, and the Trinity Regional Health System for its CNG program. Read more about MetroLINK on the Illinois Green Fleets website.