



Green Fleet News

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2002

Did You Know:

- CMAQ funds are now available to local governments for alternate fuel infrastructure in the Chicago area...call Carol Brown at 312-744-7200 for grant criteria
- President Bush and his staff drive a propane-powered Ford Pickup truck at his ranch in Crawford, Texas
- Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, IL and the Great Lakes Naval Training Center north of Chicago are among many military installations that are now using alternative fuels in their vehicles

Inside this issue:

<i>Greater Variety in 2002 Green Fleet Vehicles</i>	2
<i>Designation Criteria Outlined For Green Fleets</i>	2
<i>\$388,060 Issued for AFV Rebates in Last 6 Months</i>	2
<i>Chickens, Eggs, and Corn...E-85 Has it All</i>	3
<i>Green Fleets Connects with Green Illinois</i>	3
<i>Website Updates are Forthcoming</i>	3
<i>Green Fleet Feature: El Milagro and Propane</i>	4

Biodiesel: The SOY-lent Green Fuel for the Diesel Engine

For those of you who remember the 1970's movie "classic," you will get the pun in the heading. And if you get the pun and are having your snack as you read this...sorry. But since biodiesel often includes soybean oil and it is a "green" fuel, the movie came to mind. In addition to soybean oil, the fuel blend can also consist of vegetable oil. Biodiesel containing soybean and vegetable oil is being manufactured and distributed in Illinois and is available to fleets for use in diesel-powered vehicles.

Biodiesel is becoming popular for use as a clean, alternative fuel in medium to heavy-duty diesel vehicles. It can also be used in off-road applications such as generators, boats, locomotives, and construction equipment. Various blends of biodiesel can be used in diesel engines. The most popular application for biodiesel is 20% blend (mixed with 80% diesel). This blend is referred to as BD-20. Other types of biodiesel fuel include lower blend percentages such as 10%, 5%, and 1 or 2% mixed with diesel fuel. Biodiesel blends up to 20% do not require any ret-

rofits or other changes to the vehicle or engine. It can be used much like 10% ethanol in gasoline. However, some vehicles in demonstration projects have used 30% up to 100% biodiesel blends with good results. These higher blends will require some modifications to the engine.

Biodiesel significantly reduces particulate emissions and provides other environmental and health benefits, especially for those working or often standing near the vehicle or equipment. For example, BD-20 provides a 12-20% reduction in particulates, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and air toxics with higher blends providing increased benefits.

BD-20 results in a 2% reduction in mileage and the cost is a little higher than regular diesel fuel. However, since BD-20 enables fleets subject to the Energy Policy Act alternative fuel fleet program to obtain vehicle credits, and since the fuel is safer and better for the environment, many fleets are experiencing the benefits. For more information, contact the Illinois EPA at (217) 557-1441.

Wanted: A Few Good Fleets

By this Spring, there will be 24 business and local government fleets in Illinois designated as Illinois Green Fleets. Additional fleets have come forward and will be honored at an event in Chicago at the end of April while others are working towards designation. The Illinois EPA is aware of other businesses and local governments that are using clean, alternative fuels in some of their vehicles. These fleets could be included in the program. If your fleet uses propane, ethanol

(E-85), natural gas, biodiesel, or electricity as a motor vehicle fuel, please call (217) 557-1441. In addition, if you know of another fleet that uses one or more of these fuels, please let us know. Anyone that is interested in receiving this newsletter should call the above number to be placed on our mailing list. The subscription is.....free! As a reminder, check out our new Green Fleets and other new information at www.illinoisgreenfleets.org.

Green Fleet Vehicles: More AFVs and Greater Variety for 2002 and 2003

The auto manufacturers are continuing their trend of going clean and green with several of their vehicle offerings. More AFVs are being offered in model year 2002 than at any other time in the history of the auto industry. Why? Increased demand. And, after the events of this past year and the current situation in the Middle East, AFV may not stand for Alternate Fuel Vehicle as much as it does American Fuel Vehicle.

Here is a sampling of what is available today for fleets and to the general public:

Flexible-Fuel Vehicles that can run on E-85 or gasoline:

Ford Taurus, Taurus Wagon and Ranger pickup with 3.0 liter engine; Chevrolet S-10 and GMC Sonoma pickups with 2.2 liter engine; GMC Sierra, Yukon, Yukon XL, Chevrolet Silverado, Suburban, and Tahoe, all with 5.3 liter engines; and Dodge Caravan, Grand Caravan, Chrysler Voyager, and Town and Country minivans, all

with 3.3 liter engines.

Vehicles that can run on natural gas:

Ford Crown Victoria, F-150, Econoline; GMC Sierra, Savana van, Chevrolet Silverado, Cavalier, and Express van; Dodge Ram cargo van and passenger van; and the Honda Civic GX.

Propane vehicles include the Ford F-150 pickups and the GMC medium-duty truck models.

Electric vehicles include the Ford Ranger pickup, Ford Think City and Neighborhood vehicles, and Toyota RAV 4 SUV. Electric-gasoline hybrids include the Honda Insight and the Toyota Prius.

What to expect for 2003? More E-85 vehicle offerings, especially in the SUV class and a few more gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles.

Criteria for Designation as an Illinois Green Fleet

To become an Illinois Green Fleet, all you have to do is complete a survey. The answers on the designation surveys are compared to established criteria and scored for potential inclusion in the program. Whether you just started acquiring alternative fuel vehicles or have had them in your fleet for a longer term, eligibility is open to newcomers and veterans alike. The criteria include, but are not limited to:

- The number of AFVs in the fleet
- The percentage of the applicable fleet consisting of AFVs
- The percentage of the vehicles acquired for the fleet during the past year that are AFVs (including conversions)
- The amount of alternative fuel usage and the percentage of refueling consisting of the alternative fuel vs. gasoline or diesel
- The use of public or private infrastructure
- Fuel accessibility for other fleets, the general public, or to the employees for fuel use in personal vehicles (not required)
- Overall AFV plan and future commitment

Largest Rebate Cycle Ever...\$388,060 Issued for AFV Rebates, Bringing Program Total to Over \$1.25 Million

During the second half of 2001, 17 corporations, small businesses, local governments, and citizens in Illinois applied for over \$388,000 in rebates for acquiring or converting 114 vehicles that run on a clean, alternative fuel. This was the largest amount issued during a 6-month period since the program's inception in 1998. The types of vehicles receiving rebates include natural gas, ethanol (E-85), propane, and electric vehicles. Recipients include the Chicago Transit Authority, Advance Presort Services, Lansing Cleaners, Underwriters

Laboratories, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Hollub Heating, Home Improvement, Heetco, Inc., University of Illinois at Chicago, Triton College and the Villages of Oak Park, Downers Grove, Lake Zurich, and Northbrook. Rebates were also issued to individuals purchasing E-85 fuel at the retail stations in Illinois.

Congratulations to our recipients for using and investing in Illinois' clean, domestic and renewable fuels for a better environment and greater national energy security!

E-85 Refueling Sites in Illinois: There's Chickens AND Eggs to go with the Corn!

The old adage about "chickens and eggs" as it applies to alternative fuels is appropriate to bring up at this time, since you can't have infrastructure without the vehicles and you can't have the vehicles without the infrastructure. How did it work 100+ years ago with gasoline? Which came first, the Model T or the gas station? Well, actually, the original Model T ran on pure ethanol and the original diesel engine ran on peanut oil (biodiesel!), but that's another puzzle to ponder. But it's nice to know that this old adage as it applies to E-85 fuels and vehicles is just that....OLD. Sure, we don't have choices in fuels when we pull up to each and every gas station, unless you count regular, mid-grade, and premium as a fuel choice. But more and more, you will be seeing other fuels, such as E-85, being sold at several retailers. So, look before you pump, because if you are driving an E-85 vehicle, you may find that you have a choice in fuels. On the opposite page, we talked about the "chickens" (vehicles) so now, let's focus our attention on some of the resulting "eggs" (infrastructure).

Public E-85 locations in Illinois

Arlington Heights: Marathon, 815 West Rand Road
 Palatine: Marathon, 515 W. Colfax
 Mt. Prospect: Marathon, 310 W. Northwest Highway
 Elgin: Marathon, 1126 Larkin Avenue
 Des Plaines: Speedway, 885 E. Touhy Avenue
 Bartlett: Clark, 575 Lake St.
 Berwyn: Clark, 1427 S. Harlem Avenue
 Elmhurst: Clark, 926 North York Road
 Evanston: Clark, 2431 Dempster
 Chicago: Gas City, 4070 N. Clark St.
 Chicago: Kean Oil, 111th & Talman
 Bloomington: FS, Rte. 150 South & Business 55
 Rock Island: Citgo, 1501 7th Avenue
 Rockford: Phillips, 4545 Sandy Hollow Road

Coming Soon: More E-85 stations and detailed maps and information where to find these and other sites on the Illinois Green Fleets website.

Illinois Green Fleets Program Connects with Green Illinois

On the backside of this newsletter under the logo, you will find the Illinois Green Fleets program slogan: "Green Environment, Green Energy, and Green Economics for a Green Illinois." The "Green Illinois" is a reference to Governor George Ryan's Green Illinois initiative announced in April 2000. Green Illinois is a state initiative in which the various agencies and departments of the State of Illinois are to serve as a model in providing environmental leadership and protection. It is also a mechanism to enable the State and local governments to

*"Green Environment, Green
 Energy, and Green Economics
 for a Green Illinois"*

work together to promote clean air and water, energy efficiency, waste reduction, natural areas protection and restoration, environmental education, and clean fleets. Green Illinois establishes environmentally sustainable practices, from purchasing "green" products and services to recycling and minimizing waste. The Illinois Green Fleets Program, where the State, local governments, and businesses acquire clean alternative fuels and vehicles, fits right in with Green Illinois. For more information on Green Illinois, visit www.epa.state.il.us and click on "Green Illinois."

Website Updates are Forthcoming!

The Illinois Green Fleets website went on-line last December. During the past four months, new components have been added with more to come. The quarterly newsletter, along with past issues, is now available on the site. In addition, meeting notices and activities of both the Chicago Area Clean Cities and St. Louis Regional Clean Cities coalitions will be posted as information is received. Upcoming additions to the website will include the locations of retail and private alternative fuel sites throughout Illinois for E-85, natural gas and

propane fuel. The information will be displayed on an easy-to-read map with the names and addresses of the fuel stations.

The model year 2003 AFVs from the major manufacturers will also be posted after the list is released along with the stories and experiences of our seven new Green Fleets. Numerous links will also be added for improved retrieval of information on the Internet. Stay tuned. In case you missed it, the address is

www.illinoisgreenfleets.org.

**ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

Mobile Source Programs #6
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Contact: Darwin Burkhart
Phone: 217-557-1441
Fax: 217-524-4710
Email: darwin.burkhart@epa.state.il.us



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

www.illinoisgreenfleets.org

Green Fleet Feature: El Milagro in Chicago Doing “Muy Bien” with Propane

El Milagro, Inc. is a small business in Chicago that manufactures and distributes a wide variety of Mexican food products to area grocery store chains such as Jewel and Dominicks. El Milagro was designated as a 5-Star Green Fleet by the Illinois EPA in June 2001.

The company has a fleet of 27 refrigerated 1-ton box trucks, in which 13 are fueled with propane. El Milagro reports that it is working to change over the remaining 14 trucks in its fleet to run on propane. El Milagro is following the same path as a well-known national food distributor, Schwan's Sales Enterprises, that makes door-to-door deliveries of refrigerated and frozen foods in communities across the U.S. Schwan's operates over 7,000 propane-powered delivery trucks and has the largest fleet of propane vehicles in the country. You can read about the Schwan's experience on the Illinois Green Fleets Program website.

El Milagro's trucks are a little smaller in size than those operated by Schwan's but the refrigerated delivery truck application is very much the same. Therefore, with the success that Schwan's has had in using propane as a motor fuel over the past 20 years, El Milagro realized that

clean air and the economics were in favor of the company and it proceeded to implement propane-powered trucks. To facilitate refueling, El Milagro installed its own propane refueling infrastructure. The fuel site contains two 1,000 gallon horizontal propane storage tanks connected to a propane motor fuel dispenser. El Milagro consumes nearly 28,000 gallons of propane each year in its fleet.

As with any type of significant change made in business operations, El Milagro is addressing a few obstacles to achieve its goal of operating its entire fleet exclusively with propane. One of the challenges facing El Milagro recently is acquiring emissions-certified propane vehicle systems for its trucks. The U.S. EPA implemented new rules for after-market conversions, and manufacturers of these systems have to go through the new EPA testing and certification requirements.

El Milagro has received accolades for its efforts. In addition to being designated as an Illinois Green Fleet, the company was a finalist for the 2001 National Propane Exceptional Energy Award bestowed by the Propane Vehicle Council.