

# Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Gazette

Driving the way toward energy independence

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## The Gerber's Educate Children at Arsenal School

Murry and Cindy Gerber and their dog Seamus made a trip across the United States this summer in a compressed natural gas (CNG) Hummer that averaged a mere \$1.50 per gasoline gallon equivalency. They made the Los Angeles to New York City journey to show that there are already compressed natural gas refueling stations in place to make such a trip. They visited Palm Springs, Phoenix, Tucson, Las Cruces, Midland, Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Washington DC, and then finally New York City. They chose their EPA certified Hummer because many people consider such large vehicles to be a major part of the emissions problem in the U.S. They showed that their clean-running, inexpensive to operate Hummer illustrates that it's not the vehicle that's the problem - it's the fuel. Their solution? Natural gas!

Along the way, the Gerbers stopped at junior high schools to make \$2,500 contributions to science oriented programs, with the intention of emphasizing that the growing natural gas revolution is the result of American ingenuity and know-how. The Gerbers' CNG program included an interactive presentation followed by a quiz game. At the end of the game the winner and all of the other participants received prizes for their participation.

"I was really impressed with the presentation that the Gerber's gave and how they helped the students understand the benefits of CNG and energy independence," said Rick Price, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities. After the presentation all the students had an opportunity to go outside and examine the vehicle.

# President's Corner

An important piece of federal legislation for fleet owners and refueling infrastructure providers – HR 1380, or the New Alternative Transportation to Give American Solutions (NAT GAS) Act – is under consideration by the US House of Representatives. In the past couple of weeks, two House Ways and Means subcommittees heard testimony from a variety of perspectives on the merits of passage of the NAT GAS Act. The purpose of the NAT GAS Act is to provide short term tax incentives for vehicle conversion to alternative fuels. The NAT GAS Act would amend the Internal Revenue Code to:

- Allow an excise tax credit through 2016 for alternative fuels and fuel mixtures involving compressed or liquefied natural gas
- Allow an income tax credit through 2015 for alternative fuel motor vehicles powered by compressed or liquefied natural gas and make Indian tribal governments eligible for such credit
- Modify the tax credit percentage for alternative fuel vehicles fueled by natural gas or liquefied natural gas
- Allow a new tax credit for the production of vehicles fueled by natural gas or liquefied natural gas; and

- Extend through 2016 the tax credit for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property expenditures for refueling property relating to compressed or liquefied natural gas and allow an increased credit for such property.

Opponents of the bill argued that the bill would result in a distorted marketplace because of the government incentives. Further, they argued that natural gas is already competitive and that the subsidies were unneeded given that fleet conversions have already taken place for many of the largest US fleet operators including Wal-Mart, FedEx, and UPS.

Witnesses for the bill argued that although natural gas as a fuel was competitive, the cost of fleet conversion was still prohibitively high without the proposed subsidy. Proponents argued that it was important to build up a critical mass needed to accelerate retailers offering more natural gas vehicles and to build out needed natural gas infrastructure.

Please take the time to contact your Representative and talk to him or her about your perspectives on this important legislation.

## Member Highlight Mack Godfrey

When people in the Pittsburgh area talk about vehicles and compressed natural gas, Mack's name often comes up. Everyone knows Mack!

Mack Godfrey, Major Accounts Manager at NiSource, the parent company of Columbia Gas, has been on the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities board almost since its beginning in December 1995. Mack currently serves as the Vice President of PRCC and is the Chair of its Gaseous Fuels Committee.

Mack is an engineer who has worked in the industry for almost 35 years and is a certified Energy Manager. He has been a key leader in the deployment of natural gas stations for much of his career,

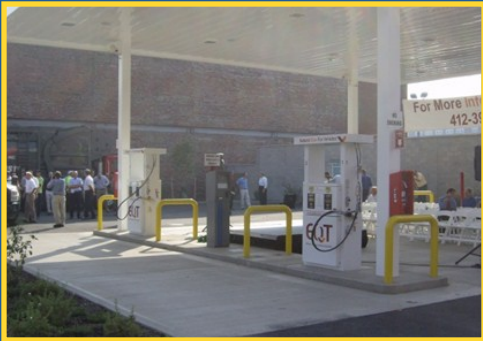


starting when his mentor Tom Herbertson retired. Tom was the natural gas vehicle coordinator for Columbia Gas for the Pittsburgh region.

Mack's knowledge of compressed natural gas and its history as a transportation fuel is vast. He has worked on many alternative fuel projects and clean initiatives including fueling equipment and vehicles. One of his most successful

projects is with the Centre Area Transit Authority (CATA) which has operated CNG buses for almost 19 years in and around the Penn State Main Campus in State College, PA.

# EQT Opens Station in Strip District



EQT Corporation, one of the Marcellus Shale region's largest natural gas exploration and production companies, opened its new public access compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station on July 21 at 29<sup>th</sup> and Smallman Streets in Pittsburgh's Strip District. The grand opening was attended by Dan Onorato, Allegheny County Executive. He dedicated the station by driving an EQT CNG up-fitted dump truck through a green ribbon and then refueling the dump truck. EQT had a CNG Honda Civic on hand as well as a Vogel Disposal Trash Truck.

"EQT believes natural gas is a clean, cheap alternative fuel source which will lessen America's dependence on foreign oil," said David Porges, EQT chairman, president and chief executive officer. "We have a vast resource of natural gas below our feet with the Marcellus Shale, as well as a tremendous opportunity in this country to convert fleet vehicles from gasoline and diesel to natural gas to save money and protect the environment."

Natural gas as a transportation fuel is a proven

technology with about 13 million natural gas vehicles (NGVs) worldwide. There are only about 112,000 NGVs in service in the U.S., but that number is quickly growing, as more waste companies and transit authorities convert their fleets to natural gas.

The natural gas equivalent of a gallon of gasoline at EQT's new station cost \$1.849 on opening day – about half the cost of gasoline! The CNG station is open to the public. The unmanned station is open 24 hours a day and accepts all major credit cards.

EQT built the CNG station at a cost of about \$2.3 million dollars, \$700,000 of which came from the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Zoresco Equipment Company converted 33 Equitable Gas Company (EQT's natural gas distribution company) vehicles to CNG that will be utilizing the station.

# Giant Eagle Opens First Public Station

On July 14, Giant Eagle dedicated its first two compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling stations at its warehouse in Crafton, PA. The meeting was attended by many dignitaries and Giant Eagle staff. The event recognized key contributors to the construction of the CNG stations including Dan Onorato, Allegheny County Executive, Michael Krancer, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary, and others.

Giant Eagle opened two stations at the grand opening - one for its own fleet within the Giant Eagle facility and a public station almost a half mile away. Both fueling stations are serviced by two 500 horsepower compressors capable of pumping 12 gasoline gallon equivalents (GGE) per minute.

"We are dedicated to doing business in the most sustainable manner possible across all of our business operations," said Giant Eagle Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John Lucot at the event. "Our efforts have been greatly advanced with the help of others, and we give thanks to the local and state officials here today as well as to our allies at Volvo Trucks and EQT who partnered with us to make these facilities possible."

Lucot added, "This project delivers improved air quality for the region through emissions reductions, reduces dependence on traditional fuels, and serves as a regional catalyst for southwestern Pennsylvania in adopting and understanding alternative fuels and clean transportation technology."

"Until now, there have been no viable alternative fuel options for heavy-duty delivery trucks with the necessary level of power required to navigate the region's hilly and mountainous terrain," said Giant Eagle Vice President of Logistics Bill Parry. "To continue evolving our environmentally friendly fleet, Giant Eagle worked closely with Volvo to design the 10 new CNG vehicles here today with an 8.9 liter Cummins engine as the first of their kind in the commercial transportation industry."

The ten tractors average about 480 miles per fill up, which carries them to Columbus, OH and other destinations. Giant Eagle expects the ten new CNG fleet vehicles to displace more than 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel during the fleet station's first year of operation alone, and at \$1.84 a gallon it won't take them long to recoup its investment!



# PRCC & Transit Companies Tour CATA

In an effort to build interest in local transit companies in the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as a transportation fuel, Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities (PRCC) sponsored a trip to the Centre Area Transit Authority (CATA). The trip was arranged by PRCC's Vice President Mack Godfrey, Major Accounts Manager at Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. He was instrumental in getting CATA involved with CNG some 19 years ago.

CATA has 62 dedicated CNG buses that run throughout State College, PA, and the Penn State campus. Eric Bernier, CATA Service Development Manager, gave the group an overview of the history of CATA's use of CNG, including some of the trials and tribulations at the begin-



ning. Eric said that he began the CNG conversion not knowing whether or not it was feasible at that time. The conversion required that Eric first obtain buy-in from the drivers and mechanics and only once that was achieved did they address the need for new infrastructure and fleet upgrades. They even installed a gas line to support a public station at a refueling facility next door to CATA site. The PRCC group also had a chance to talk with Mark Kutzer, CATA's Director of Maintenance, about his duties. Over the years CATA has had to add on ad-

ditional infrastructure and upgrades to its CNG transportation system to support growth. Mack Godfrey also took the group to the CNG and hydrogen refueling facilities on the Penn State University campus.

## PRCC Attends Energy Roundtable

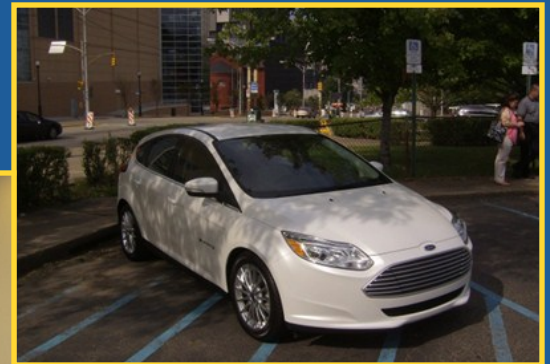
Rick Price, PRCC Executive Director, and Mack Godfrey, PRCC Vice President, attended an Energy Round Table Discussion on Natural Gas that was hosted by the Northwest Division of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The first speaker was Barry Carr from BAF Technologies and the Clean Cities Coordinator from Syracuse, New York. Barry discussed BAF Technologies and their up-fitting of vehicles for the original manufacturers and about their facilities in Texas. He also noted the two regional certified vendors—Zoresco and FYDA Freightliners.

The second speaker was Bill Boyce from Cummins Westport. Bill talked about their compressed natural gas (CNG) engines and operations. The third speaker was Dave Seachrist of Know Western, an Erie, PA company that makes large CNG pumps. He explained how CNG compressors work and about the sizing and operation CNG stations. The final speaker was Les Young of National Fuel, a natural gas provider to part of the Erie area. He talked about the cost of natural gas and how National Fuel has worked with various partners to develop and supply natural gas fueling stations. The full presentation can found on the PRCC website.

# Power of Choice Visits Pittsburgh

Ford brought its “Power of Choice” event to the CONSOL Energy Center on August 31. Ford is committed to delivering fuel-efficient vehicles to consumers. The event’s purpose was to highlight all of the new light duty vehicles Ford has to offer including two new electric vehicles. Gil Portalatin, Ford’s Hybrid and Battery Electric Vehicle Systems Application Manager, presented Ford’s new line of Hybrid and Electric vehicles. It was the first time that the production model of the Ford Focus electric vehicle was in the Southwestern Pennsylvania area. In addition, there was a Ride-N-Drive after the presentation for the

new all electric Ford Transit and other Ford alternative fuel vehicles including Ford hybrid and Eco-Boost vehicles. Portalatin explained how the Focus was designed and its ability for recharging the batteries via an on-board charger. There are five new alternative fuel models coming in 2012 including the Transit, Focus, Fiesta, Lincoln MKS with Eco-boost, and the Ford Fusion Hybrid. Attendees were able to test drive all of the vehicles except the Production Model of the Focus. Ford presented findings from a Pittsburgh Area survey it conducted . The results are listed below.



## The survey concluded that:

- More than 60% of Pittsburgh residents are interested in buying a hybrid or electric vehicle (Higher than the national average of 55%)
- 88% of Pittsburghers say an electric vehicle would fit their family’s needs
- More than 50% of Pennsylvania residents don’t know the difference between electric vehicles, a plug-in hybrid vehicle, or a traditional hybrid
- Pittsburghers on average believe that gas prices would have to rise to between \$5 and \$6 per gallon in order to earn a positive return on investment from a hybrid and electric vehicle purchase
- Pittsburgh residents driving statistics: 69% drive to work, 51% have a daily commute of less than 30 minutes
- 60% drive more on weekends then they do on week days, and
- 56% cite traffic as the biggest transportation concern.

# Ford Truck Holds Meeting for Dealers

Ford Truck Dealers from Pittsburgh and Columbus attended a meeting in West Middlesex, PA, at the Oak Tree County Club. Over 120 attendees were able to view numerous Ford trucks on display, including several alternative fuel vehicles. Ford national and local managers presented the new 2012 Ford truck line. The presentation included statistics on the success of Ford and recognized local dealers who met or exceeded goals in selling and customer service. A significant portion of the event was dedicated to alternative fueled vehicles. Brian Carney from Roush Clean Tech talked about which Ford models were available as propane vehicles. He stated that Roush is an OEM approved upfitter and these vehicles can be ordered through any dealer. Similarly, Jed Tallman of Landerenzo/Baytech presented models available for compressed natural gas upfitting - these are also available at any dealer. The final speaker was Terry Schiefer from Azure Dynamics, the Ford producer of the Ford Electric Transit.



## PRCC Speaks at NAFA Meeting

Rick Price, Executive Director of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities, spoke at a recent National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) meeting. The meeting was held at the Community College of Allegheny County, West Hills Center. The event allowed participants to see the facility where alternative fueled vehicle training will be taking place.

The meeting attracted almost 90 fleet operators from all over the area. Speakers at the event included Barry Carr (BAF Technologies), Taylor

Steinberg (Knapheide Manufacturing Co), and Buzz Tabone (Zoresco Corporation). The speakers discussed alternative fuel vehicles with an emphasis on CNG vehicles. Rick talked about the mission of the National Clean Cities Program and PRCC and funding opportunities available to fleet managers. Finally, Bob Koch from CCAC discussed the alternative fuel vehicle and refueling infrastructure training that CCAC will be conducting in the future.



## Upcoming Events

### Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2011/12

October 5, 2011

January 4, 2012

April 4, 2012

July 3, 2012

October 3, 2012

### Stakeholder Meeting

October 7, 2011, 9:30 AM—2:30 PM; Odyssey Day, Community College of Allegheny County, West Hills Center; open to the public; learn about alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles

## Membership

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities is always looking for new members! Our job is to help you understand the value and importance of converting to alternative fuels. We can tell you about the incentives available to you for using alternative fuels. We can help guide you through making smart financial and environmental choices about purchasing an alternative fueled vehicle or using an alternative fuel. Become a member, and we can help you assess your fleet and objectives, as well as work with you to acquire funding assistance. If you would like to join and/or volunteer, please contact Rick Price at [coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org](mailto:coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org)

## Contribute Your News!

We want to showcase your news and successes, and we welcome ideas for articles. Please feel free to contact Rick Price, Executive Director/Coordinator, at 412-735-4114 or at [coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org](mailto:coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org)



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