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Use of Clean, Cost-Effective Transportation Fuel in Wisconsin Grows by 132 Percent

Compressed Natural Gas Reduces Emissions and Helps Businesses Save Money

The Department of Administration's State Energy Office announces the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) is 132 percent higher in 2014 year compared to the same period last year. In addition, CNG consumption exceeds the 2013 total figure by 2.1 million gallons.

"Compressed natural gas is clean, affordable vehicle fuel that lowers fuel costs for our businesses and increases economic opportunities in the natural gas and biogas supply chain," said DOA Deputy Secretary Chris Schoenherr. "Organizations can save about 50% on fuel costs using CNG, which certainly helps drive interest in using it as a transportation fuel."

On average, compressed natural gas is \$1.65 less per gallon when compared to diesel fuel at about \$3.60/gallon. CNG is a clean fuel that is less expensive than diesel, which makes it a cost-effective solution for medium- to heavy-duty vehicles that operate a significant number of hours a day, such as refuse and recycling trucks, buses, and intercity freight delivery trucks. More companies are looking at creating and expanding their CNG fleet to lower their operating costs and have fewer emissions.

In April 2012, Governor Scott Walker announced the free public roundtable sessions as a way to develop clear direction for growth of the CNG industry in the state. Some recent highlights include:

- CNG use has increased significantly in the state from 1.4 million gallons in 2012 to 3.6 million gallons in 2013. Comparably, Wisconsin consumed 726 million gallons of diesel fuel and 2.5 billion gallons of gasoline last year.
- The CNG consumption to date is 132 percent higher for the same time period last year. In addition, CNG consumption so far this year already exceeds the 2013 total figure by 2.1 million gallons.
- Since 2012, the number of public and private CNG fueling stations in Wisconsin has tripled – from 19 to 58 – and the number of stations is expected to continue to grow during the next few years.

The State Energy Office will continue the momentum of using CNG in Wisconsin by focusing on (1) improving access to CNG stations and encouraging the growing commitment among fuel vendors to add more CNG stations, (2) supporting private and municipal fleet operators in their efforts to modify or replace vehicles and use CNG, particularly in their regular mid-to-heavy trucking operations, and (3) continuing to host events, webinars, and discussions that will promote awareness and use of CNG.

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