



# The Ripple

clean fuels clean air clean cities

Winter 2014  
Volume 1

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## NOTICE A CHANGE!



Welcome to the ACFC Ripple.....a quarterly newsletter devoted to highlighting alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicle activities in Alabama.

Why the Ripple? Like a stone thrown into a pond, the incorporation of alternative transportation fuels creates the "ripple" effects of cleaner air, economic development (jobs), the reduction of our dependence on foreign petroleum and, in many cases lower fuel costs!

Like the name? Let us know your opinion by taking a quick poll...just click [HERE](#). Or go to: <http://tinyurl.com/Ripple-Poll>

## Q&A Corner

Q: What is the current status of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and how do the new 2014 proposed requirements differ from previous years'?

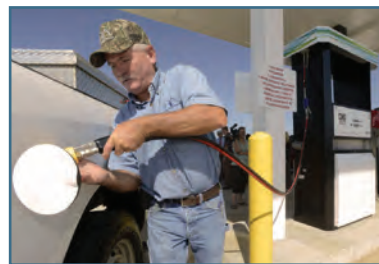
A: Read the comprehensive Technical Response answer by clicking [HERE](#). or go to <http://www.eereblogs.energy.gov/cleancities/>



**VEHICLE COST CALCULATOR**  
Compare cost of ownership & emissions for most vehicles

## BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME!

### ATHENS, ALABAMA, PUBLIC ACCESS CNG STATION



The fast-fill CNG station on U.S. 31 near the Interstate 65 exit not only services the city's growing fleet of CNG vehicles, but also is open to the public. It is the only public CNG station on the Interstate 65 Corridor between Birmingham and Nashville.

Athens Gas Department Manager Steve Carter said the city is being progressive. "This will save the City of Athens money in fuel and maintenance costs because compressed natural gas is cheaper than gasoline and diesel, and it is a cleaner fuel which means less maintenance," Carter said.

"In addition, the Athens Gas Department, Mayor Ronnie Marks and the Athens City Council are leading the way in North Alabama with regards to

green energy and independence from foreign oil for the city's energy needs."

Carter said natural gas is an American product, and new drilling technology will ensure a continuous supply.

## NEWS FLASH!

The City of Athens has won a 2014 Municipal Quality of Life Award for a program that saves money, improves the environment and decreases dependency on foreign fuel.

The Alabama League of Municipalities chose Athens and its compressed natural gas program among the entries for cities with a population over 12,001. Athens is the only city between Nashville and Birmingham that offers a public CNG station on the Interstate 65 Corridor.





## SAVING THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS LAUNCHES PILOT PROJECT USING PROPANE AUTOGAS FOR WORK-RELEASE VANS

Ferrying inmates to and from work release jobs had become increasingly costly for the Alabama Department of Corrections. The 15-passenger vans averaged almost 5,000 miles of travel a month, and gasoline for the fleet of 77 vans totals about \$1.3 million a year.



In 2012, ADOC received approval to buy ten E350 Ford 15-passenger vans and a refueling station for use at the Loxley Work Release Center.

Vendors for the pilot project were selected through a bid process. Stivers Ford got the bid for the vans; Precision Sales & Service installed the propane conversion kits; and Estes Equipment installed the dispensing station at Loxley. Alliance Autogas will provide propane under the state's alternative fuel contract.

With the low cost of propane (\$1.63 per gallon in mid December), the department stands to recoup the costs of conversion and infrastructure in less than one year.



Fuel savings just for 2014 are estimated at \$142,000. "We're happy to be exploring alternative fuels and looking for ways to save taxpayer money," ADOC Commissioner Kim Thomas said. "Considering the distance traveled by our vehicles, this is a huge opportunity."

## MOBILE PURCHASES AUTOGAS BUSES



The City of Mobile will receive 30 Blue Bird Autogas school buses in January. A Busworx, Roush and Kenworth Road Show in November stopped in Birmingham, Dothan and Mobile to highlight the features and benefits of Autogas for student transportation. ACFC was pleased to participate in the Road Show. Watch for more school systems in Alabama moving to cost effective and clean Autogas!

## CNG WORKSHOP COMMUNICATES THE FEATURES & BENEFITS OF FUEL



Athens' CNG Workshop attendees listen intently at "Leak City".....the Athens' Utility training facility.

"The day I filled up one of our GNC cars for less than \$20 was a good day."

Mayor Ronnie Marks, Athens, Alabama

Bob Strickland (Cynergy Fuels) and Mark Bentley (ACFC) facilitated a 3 hour educational CNG Workshop at the Athens Utilities training facility 30 days prior to public access station Grand Opening. Attendees included fleets, representatives from surrounding municipalities, media and government. Practical information was presented and excellent questions were asked and answered.




Athens Mayor Ronnie Marks welcomes workshop attendees and provides background for the city's decision to invest in CNG through partnership with Athens Utilities.

## New Clean Cities Publications!



Would you like a copy of any of the above free booklets?  
Just email your request: [mark@alabamacleanfuels.org](mailto:mark@alabamacleanfuels.org)


## ACFC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!



**CNG Southeast** provides compressed natural gas refueling station development and EPA certified vehicle conversions. If you are a fleet manager or business owner we can help. Our experts will sit down with you and help you decide the best course of action for your organization. The use of clean alternative fuels provides new fuel supply choices and can help you and your fleet managers address concerns about fuel costs, energy reliance, and emissions control. Visit [CNGSoutheast.com](http://CNGSoutheast.com) for more details.



**Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc.** is North America's fourth largest ethanol producer, marketing and distributing more than one billion gallons of ethanol annually. Green Plains owns and operates grain storage assets in the corn belt and **BlendStar**, a biofuel terminal company across the southern U.S. that includes a 160,000 barrel unit train receiving terminal in Birmingham, Alabama. Green Plains is a joint venture partner in **BioProcess Algae LLC**, which was formed to commercialize advanced photobioreactor technologies for growing and harvesting algal bio-mass. For more information, visit [gpreinc.com](http://gpreinc.com).



**GAIN Clean Fuel**, a division of **U. S. Oil Corp.**, is expanding current operations to offer Southeastern fleets an opportunity to take advantage of our CNG fueling stations program. Through strategic partnerships with fleets, GAIN Clean Fuel is in the process of adding 50+ CNG stations over the next 2 years. GAIN offers a full turn-key program covering up-front capital expenses. Our US Petroleum Equipment division installs infrastructure (having installed 100+ fueling stations), and performs all required maintenance with 24/7 response. Visit [Gainfuel.com](http://Gainfuel.com) for more details

## 0% FINANCING NOW AVAILABLE!



### ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM!

The Alabama Local Government Energy Loan Program provides low-cost revolving loans for energy efficiency projects undertaken by local governments, K-12 public school systems and public colleges and universities in Alabama.

### 0% INTEREST RATE FOR A TERM UP TO FIVE YEARS!

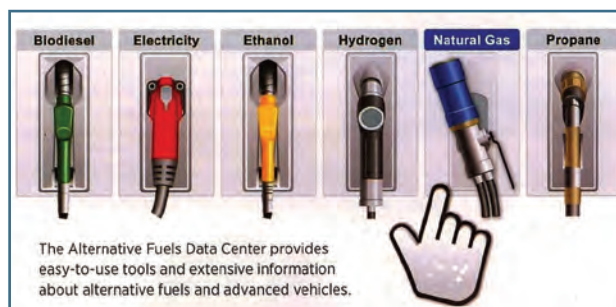
Through the program, local governments and public colleges and universities can borrow up to \$350,000; K-12 public school systems can borrow up to \$350,000 per campus or \$500,000 per school system. Funds may be used for fleet vehicle conversions for compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) and propane (LPG). In addition, the incremental cost of a new dedicated or bi-fuel CNG, LNG or propane vehicle over the cost of a traditional fueled vehicle is eligible for the program. The costs for fueling infrastructure are not covered.

Link Directly to the details of the program on the ADECA-Energy Division website by clicking [HERE](#) or go to <http://tinyurl.com/ADECA-Energy>

The **ALABAMASAVES 1% Loan Program** is also available for **BUSINESSES** that want to convert vehicles to CNG/LNG or Propane. Plus, the program also extends the 1% financing to infrastructure projects for these fuels. Email Mark for details: [mark@alabamacleanfuels.org](mailto:mark@alabamacleanfuels.org)

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EACH OF THE ALTERNATIVE FUELS, VISIT THE ALTERNATIVE FUELS DATA CENTER

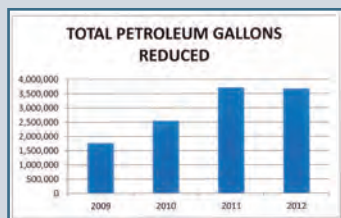
<http://www.afdc.energy.gov>



THE ALTERNATIVE FUELS DATA CENTER PROVIDES EASY-TO-USE TOOLS AND EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND ADVANCED VEHICLES.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Your support of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC) in 2013 was greatly appreciated. The Coalition's strength continues to be in its expanding membership representing all alternative fuels and petroleum reduction technologies. Our team efforts to develop a sustainable market for alternative fuels and advanced technology vehicles in Alabama are proving successful. The following chart represents the total gallons of foreign petroleum displaced by alternative fuels in Alabama from 2009 - 2012. We anticipate continuing the reduction in our 2013 Annual Report to the Department of Energy.



**In just four short years, we have reduced our dependence on petroleum in Alabama by 11.7 million gallons!**

**Your support has also helped continue and expand our outreach and infrastructure activities around the state in 2013!**

### Just a few examples:

- ACFC participated in the opening of the new Blendstar Ethanol Unit-Train terminal in Birmingham – a state-of-the-art unloading terminal for ethanol. (February)
- Provided overview of Natural Gas activity in Alabama at the APGA 2013 Marketing & Sales Trends conference in Pensacola. (March)
- Facilitated and MC'd the Grand Opening of the Happy Hollow Chevron CNG station in Trussville. This was a public-private partnership between Trussville Utilities, the City of Trussville and McCullough Oil. (March)
- Conducted First Responder Safety Training on Electric Drive Vehicles in Huntsville. (April)
- Represented all alternative fuels and advanced technology vehicles at State Farm's corporate Earth Day event. (April)
- Helped market and facilitate the Heavy Truck User Forum (HTUF) event at Barber Motor Sports Museum. First regional event of its kind! (May)
- Facilitated and MC'd the Gadsden Biodiesel Grand Opening Press Event – Gadsden is new user of B20 Biodiesel in its fleet vehicles. (May)
- Conducted 2013 Propane Road Show in Montgomery – best attended event in Southeast! (June)
- Facilitated CNG workshop and Grand Opening for new public access CNG station in Athens. (July)
- Spoke at Alabama Trucking Association Safety and Maintenance Management Council. (August)
- Participated in panel discussion at the Southeast Diesel Collaborative Partners meeting in Atlanta. (September)
- Provided overview of ACFC, Clean Cities and alternative fuel activity at Alabama Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) meeting in Huntsville. (September)
- Facilitated Energy Huntsville Initiative (EHI) monthly meeting, arranging for speakers representing Compressed Natural Gas and Electric Vehicle initiatives. (October)
- Participated with Blue Bird, Roush and BusWorx on propane school bus road show (Birmingham, Dothan, Mobile), educating school bus fleet managers on benefits of propane school buses. (November)
- Participated in Clean Cities panel presentation at Natural Gas Vehicle conference in Atlanta. (November)
- Participated in numerous events/speaking opportunities regarding all alternative fuels and vehicles.

Your continued support of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition will enable us to further reduce our dependence on foreign oil, improve our air quality and enhance economic development in our state and nation. Our many activities and successes in 2013 will continue to expand in 2014. Please consider joining, or contributing to, ACFC with a tax-deductible contribution.



The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC), a nonprofit membership-based organization, is the state's principal coordinating point for alternative fuels and advanced technology vehicle information. **ACFC is a designated coalition in the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program.** The promotion of clean, renewable, domestic energy sources helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil, improves local air quality and increases economic development opportunities in our local communities.

For more information, please visit [www.AlabamaCleanFuels.org](http://www.AlabamaCleanFuels.org) or call 205-402-2755.

**MARK BENTLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ALABAMA CLEAN FUELS COALITION**



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Like to join ACFC? Just go to our application at:  
<http://alabamacleanfuels.org/ACFCMembershipForm.pdf>

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