

Propane Powers Denton ISD School Buses

Denton Independent School District operates the 4th largest propane fleet in Texas. Denton transports 2.4 million students annually, with over 50% of the fleet powered by propane. The school buses travel 1.7 million miles during the year using 240,000 gallons of propane.

Denton ISD is committed to being a leader in the campaign to promote cleaner air. This is why any future increase in the fleet will be propane-fueled. “We practice what we teach!” said Gene Holloway, transportation director. Denton’s fleet life-cycle replacement program is focused on becoming 100% propane because the alternative fuel is cleaner, as well as being cost-effective. Denton District realizes an annual savings of \$692,900 through its use of propane.

Denton Fleet Facts

Fleet Type: School Bus Fleet
 Fuels: Propane, Biodiesel, Gasoline
 Fleet Size: 139 school buses
 Propane-fueled: 52%



Fleet Composition

The Denton ISD's fleet comprises of sixty-nine TB7T042 GMC 71-passenger propane-fueled buses. In addition, thirty-eight biodiesel buses and thirty-two unleaded gasoline-powered buses are used. Denton recently purchased 44 new Blue Bird propane-fueled buses.

Working with Capital Bus Sales and Service of Texas in Leander, the School District has successfully switched or changed fifty-two percent of its fleet vehicles to propane, and as stated above, any new purchases will be propane-fueled.

Superior performance

Pleased with the performance of his fleet vehicles, Joe L. Alvarez counts public appreciation of the School District's efforts to reduce and eliminate diesel fueled bus exhaust emissions, less internal engine maintenance, and lower fuel costs as some of the direct benefits arising from the decision to use propane motor fuel.

Although the propane fleet buses provide slightly lower fuel economy, the average fuel cost is almost 50 percent less than gasoline. In addition, the overall performance of the propane fleet buses is superior when compared with that of conventional fuel fleet buses; an analysis of the average life span of engines and vehicles, both in terms of months and mileage, shows that engines and vehicles fueled by propane last as long as those powered by conventional fuel. And as Joe said, "The life span and value provided by a propane fleet vehicle is higher than the costs incurred to convert a conventional fuel fleet vehicle to propane."

Refueling & Infrastructure

Each fleet vehicle consumes an average of 11.14 gallons of propane fuel per day. All propane fleet vehicles are refueled on-site from a 12,000-gallon truck mounted tank. A 2,000-gallon above ground stationary tank serves as the satellite refueling source. And since propane is readily available, the School District did not have to incur any additional infrastructure costs to procure or store propane for refueling purposes.

For more information about propane fleet vehicles, visit www.usepropane.com/climate or contact:

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Advantages of Using Propane as a Fleet Fuel

Range: A 25-gallon propane tank, as motor fuel, will last longer than any other alternative motor fuel.

Cost: Propane costs less than gasoline and is the lowest priced alternative fuel for fleet use in Texas.

Availability: In addition to several private fleet-refueling stations, there are hundreds of public refueling stations for propane. Many major truck stops sell propane motor fuel. Modern, 24-hour stations are also being installed.

Safety: Propane is considered to be a safe motor fuel by the Federal government. Propane tanks are 20 times as puncture-resistant as gasoline tanks. Of all the alternative motor fuels, propane has the lowest flammability range—making it a safe motor fuel.

Emissions: Propane is inherently cleaner than gasoline and can meet or exceed those emission levels from other alternative fuels. Propane can easily meet or exceed current and future emission standards.

Infrastructure: Propane is already produced commercially in natural gas and oil refineries in the country and across the globe. No new technology or capital investment for such technology is required.

