

Energy Success Story: Pocono Mountain School District Propane Bus Purchase

Monroe County, PA



Providing cleaner-burning school bus transportation helps improve air quality for our students, and our future.

The Grantee, In Their Words

The Pocono Mountain School District is a large, rural school district located in Monroe County. It is located in northeast Pennsylvania within the heart of the Pocono resort and recreation area.

The district spans 305 square miles and serves a population of approximately 55,000 within seven municipalities and one borough in Monroe County.

The district consists of two campuses, serving the east and west portions of the district, and is comprised of nine buildings: three elementary schools, two intermediate schools, two junior high schools and two high school buildings.

Project Summary

Pocono Mountain School District purchased 25 propane-powered school buses in an effort to reduce vehicle emissions, improve air quality, and set an example to its students and the community about environmental stewardship.

The propane buses replaced 25 diesel buses. In addition to the bus purchases, the district installed a propane fueling station to provide convenient fueling for the buses.

The district subsequently purchased an additional 25 propane buses with the goal of eventually converting their entire bus fleet of 150 buses to propane.

Project at a Glance

Name:
Pocono Mountain School District
Propane Bus Purchase

Location:
402 Panther Lane,
Pocono Summit, PA 18346

Project Size:
25 Bluebird Vision C LPG buses

Principal Use:
Alternative fuel school bus purchase

Total Project Cost:
\$2,447,500 (total purchase cost of
25 propane-powered buses and
installation of a propane fueling station)

Grant Share:
\$100,000

Consultant:
Bluebird Vision buses,
purchased through Brightbill Body Works

Project Period:
March 2017-June 2017
(3 months)

Grant Project End Date:
June 2017

Project Photos



Bluebird Vision C LPG buses



Bluebird Vision C LPG buses

"We were thrilled to receive an Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG). Pocono Mountain School District purchased its first 25 propane buses in 2016 to begin replacing our aging diesel bus fleet with the more environmentally-friendly and cost-effective propane buses".

"We were the first school district in Monroe County to purchase propane buses, so we are trying to lead the way in the county when it comes to environmentally conscious student transportation operations. We greatly appreciate every dollar we receive in grant funding. This grant is so important, because it helps us continue to prioritize trying to protect the environment with maintaining safe and efficient school operations."

Dr. Elizabeth Robinson, Superintendent of Schools

Results: Energy, Economy, Environment

The grant award was \$100,000, which provided 50% reimbursement for the incremental purchase cost of the propane buses. The upfit cost from diesel to propane was \$8,000 per bus, and DEP reimbursed \$4,000 per bus.

The total purchase cost of the buses was \$2,267,500.00 and the cost of the propane fueling station was \$180,000. Although not part of this grant, the fueling station was instrumental to the project.

Benefits:

Annual Savings:

- Energy Costs \$7,177.00

Lifetime Savings:

- $\$7,177.00 \times 10 \text{ years of service}$
= \$71,770.00

Environmental Equivalent:

- Fuel Savings* 59,930 (gallons of diesel
=114 passenger cars removed from the road)
- CO2 Emissions* 533 (metric tons)

*Annually

The Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) Fund was established under Act 166 of 1992 and is administered by DEP through the Energy Programs Office. DEP receives approximately \$6 million in funding each year through the utilities gross receipts tax collected during each fiscal year to carry out the provisions of the Alternative Fuels Incentive Act. The primary goals of the AFIG Program are to improve Pennsylvania's air quality and reduce consumption of imported oil through the use of homegrown alternative fuels that will help the Commonwealth's economy and environment. DEP funds innovative technology, alternative fuel vehicle, and refueling infrastructure projects resulting in a cleaner and greener transportation sector within the Commonwealth.