



# Real Benefits for a Rural Population

With paratransit shuttles powered by propane autogas, Charlevoix County Transit lowered emissions and operating costs.

Charlevoix County Transit (CCT) offers the Michigan county curbside-to-curb rural transit service, with CCT buses traveling between 50 and 200 miles each day. When CCT Director Jill Drury became interested in moving operations away from a reliance on gasoline- and diesel-fueled vehicles, her research indicated that propane autogas would be the fuel alternative that could bring the most benefits to her county.

With a goal of lowering both its emissions and its total operating costs, CCT began switching its fleet vehicles to propane autogas in 2016. Six years later, 89% of its fleet is powered by propane autogas.

## FLEET PROFILE

13

FORD E-450 PROPANE AUTOGAS  
CUTAWAY BUSES

1

ON-SITE PROPANE AUTOGAS  
FUEL STATION



## CHARLEVOIX COUNTY PROPANE HIGHLIGHTS

# 50%

### REDUCTION

in per-gallon fuel costs

# 89%

### PROPANE-POWERED FLEET

# 47,625

### GALLONS OF PROPANE

used in FY 2021;  
2,539 gallons of gasoline

# 13

### FORD E-450 PROPANE AUTOGAS CUTAWAY BUSES

fueled by an on-site propane  
autogas fuel station



### SERVING A RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Due to its rural location in the northern lower peninsula of Boyne City, Michigan, CCT found limited options for fuel alternatives to best serve its population. CCT Director Jill Drury initially explored the possibility of electric vehicles, but soon realized that range limitations would severely impact its vehicles' ability to successfully complete the number of miles covered each day. However, after contacting a local propane fuel vendor, CCT learned it would be able to have an on-site fueling station installed with very little additional investment of funds, in return for agreeing to a contract that guarantees propane fueling for the transit fleet.

### REDUCING COSTS

CCT's goal of reducing its overall costs was also well-served by a switch to propane autogas, which is offered at a substantially lower rate when compared to other fuels. Currently, the price of gasoline in the area served by CCT is approximately \$4.20 per gallon, more than twice as much as the current per-gallon propane autogas cost of \$2.05. In addition, the cleaner operation of propane autogas allowed the agency to reduce maintenance costs in maintaining its fleet. Propane autogas ranks as the most efficient mid-duty transit bus fuel available based on cost and life cycle, according to a 2021 Energy Department Clean Cities study.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about propane paratransit vehicles and the fleets that use them, visit [Propane.com/Paratransit](https://Propane.com/Paratransit).

 Propane Education & Research Council

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### AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OPTION

With reducing emissions being an additional goal established by CCT, propane autogas clearly offered the environmentally friendly advantages that other fuels could not match. Classified as a non-contaminant by the Environmental Protection Agency and an alternative fuel by the Department of Energy, propane autogas is a nontoxic, non-carcinogenic, and non-corrosive fuel, allowing vehicles to emit fewer greenhouse gases, smog-producing hydrocarbons, and particulate emissions than conventional fuels.

**"Since the beginning of FY-2019, we have saved \$172,956 in fuel costs by switching to propane autogas. We are mindful of the environment and happy that by switching buses from diesel and gasoline to propane autogas, we are helping the air, land, and waters where we live and vacation."**

**JILL DRURY**  
Director, CCT