



School District Cuts Costs and Boosts Efficiency with Propane-Powered Buses

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACHIEVED MAJOR SAVINGS AND PERFORMANCE GAINS WITH PROPANE AUTOGAS

Westerville City School District, based in Westerville, Ohio, transports more than 7,000 students daily. Committed to sustainability, operational efficiency, and cost savings, the district strategically adopted propane-powered school buses to address rising fuel costs and maintenance expenses.

The switch to propane autogas followed a thorough evaluation of various fuel options. Shawn Dawson, Assistant Manager of Fleet Services, explained that the district's concerns over fluctuating fuel prices and the maintenance costs of diesel buses led to the decision. After testing three propane buses and receiving positive feedback from drivers and mechanics, the district fully embraced propane as their fuel of choice.



WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AT-A-GLANCE

▶ **2M MILES**
driven annually by propane buses

ON-SITE FUELING
INFRASTRUCTURE
▶ **3 x 1,000**
GALLON TANKS

FUEL PROVIDER'S
INFRASTRUCTURE
▶ **2 x 30,000**
GALLON TANKS

FLEET PROFILE

▶ **116**
TOTAL BUSES

▶ **70**
PROPANE-POWERED BUSES
60% of the total fleet

▶ **46**
DIESEL BUSES

Westerville City School District's successful integration of propane-powered buses showcases the substantial benefits of adopting alternative fuels in the transportation sector. The district has realized significant cost savings, enhanced fleet performance, and made notable contributions to environmental sustainability, all while ensuring safe and efficient transportation for its students.

ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The district has achieved impressive savings by switching to propane buses. The annual operating cost of a diesel bus is approximately \$3,502, whereas a propane bus costs only about \$2,179 to operate, resulting in a 40% reduction in fuel costs.

In addition, Westerville has secured grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 per propane bus, further enhancing savings and enabling the district to reinvest those funds into expanding and maintaining the fleet.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

Westerville City School District achieves significant maintenance savings with propane buses, reducing oil and filter replacement costs by 46% compared to diesel.

Technicians have praised the propane buses for their ease of maintenance and reliability. Drivers also appreciate that the buses are quieter and more responsive, with no noticeable lag in acceleration.

The district has further optimized operations by building its own propane fueling station and partnering with a local fuel provider to construct another station. These on-site fueling options provide greater control over fueling, saving time and costs by eliminating the need for drivers to travel off-route.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

By integrating propane-powered school buses into their fleet, Westerville City School District significantly reduced its environmental impact. Propane buses emit up to 96% fewer toxic pollutants than diesel, enhancing air quality and fostering a healthier environment for students, drivers, and the entire community.

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPANE HIGHLIGHTS

▶ **\$1,323**
COST SAVINGS PER BUS,
PER YEAR

▶ **40%**
REDUCTION IN
OPERATIONS COSTS

▶ **46%**
REDUCTION IN MAINTENANCE
COSTS with lower oil and filter
requirements

▶ **38%**
REDUCTION IN FUEL COSTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the benefits of propane autogas school buses, visit propane.com/betterourbuses.

Propane Education & Research Council

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"Not only have we achieved significant cost savings, but the impact on our fleet's performance and environmental footprint has been remarkable."

SHAWN DAWSON

Assistant Manager of Fleet Services,
Westerville City School District