propane autogas

A School District Renews Its Commitment to Renewable Propane

Oregon's Beaverton School District is leading the way to a cleaner future, powering its school bus fleet with renewable energy sources.

With more than 300 school buses serving a variety of route sizes, Oregon's Beaverton School District boasts the third-largest fleet size in the state. Faced with the challenge of reducing emissions without reducing its services, the district opted for a mixed energy approach, now running a completely renewable fleet using renewable diesel, propane, and electric buses.

Each type operates based on route suitability – with renewable propane being the energy of choice for long-range trips. By transitioning to more renewable propane buses, the school district has benefited from cost-efficiency, reliability, and increased emission cuts, helping to put even more of Oregon's students on the road to a cleaner future.

FLEET PROFILE

301 SCHOOL BUSES:

- **66** RENEWABLE PROPANE-POWERED BUSES
- **231** RENEWABLE DIESEL-POWERED BUSES
- **4** ELECTRIC BUSES

2
1,000-GALLON PROPANE TANKS

4
DISPENSERS



BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPANE HIGHLIGHTS

94%
REDUCTION
in NOx emissions

$200,000
REDUCTION
in annual fuel costs

50%
REDUCTION
in operating costs between propane and diesel buses

400
MILES
range of the district's propane autogas buses





ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

In 2015, the Beaverton School District shifted away from diesel to the much cleaner propane autogas, impressed with the fact that propane autogas engines exceed EPA standards by 90%. But the school district didn't stop there — in April of 2023, Beaverton made the switch from regular propane to renewable propane. Produced using a variety of sustainable sources, renewable propane retains the advantages of regular propane — reliability, portability, and power — while generating even fewer emissions. Notably, this change did not necessitate the district's acquiring any new equipment or infrastructure. With cutting-edge NOx engine technology that slashes NOx emissions by 94% compared to diesel and eliminates nearly all particulate matter, Beaverton's renewable propane fleet stands as a model for prioritizing student health and environmental concerns.

COST-EFFICIENT

While prioritizing emissions reductions, Beaverton remained focused on overall cost-efficiency as well. By utilizing propane autogas and renewable propane, Beaverton has experienced savings of more than $200,000 in fuel costs annually, when compared to diesel. In addition, operating a propane bus costs 50% less than a diesel bus — and by transitioning to renewable propane, Beaverton anticipates further reductions in maintenance costs.

RELIABLE PERFORMANCE

During a district meeting in 2023, the school board inquired about the possibility of replacing the diesel fleet with electric vehicles. In response, Craig Beaver, Administrator for Transportation of the Beaverton School District, explained that given the current technology, such a transition is not feasible. Instead, Beaver presented plans to introduce more renewable propane buses. These buses have a range of 400 miles, surpassing electric buses' range of 125 miles and allowing the district to confidently operate round trips to destinations like lower Oregon or the coast without needing to refuel. Plus, because they are not reliant on electricity, the buses can continue to transport students reliably even during power outages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

"We're excited about renewable propane. We're eliminating emissions and students aren't subjected to it. We're proud to be leading the way and setting the standard."

CRAIG BEAVER
ADMINISTRATOR FOR TRANSPORTATION
BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Propane Education & Research Council

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