

About the Propane Education & Research Council

What is the Propane Education & Research Council?

The Propane Education & Research Council is a check-off program established, operated, and funded by the propane industry. PERC implements safety and training programs, conducts research, and invests in technology development with leading equipment manufacturers to expand adoption of propane as a clean, American-made energy source.

PERC programs benefit a variety of industries including on-road transportation, commercial landscaping, residential and commercial building, agriculture, and material handling.

What does PERC do?

PERC's activities center on three main areas of focus:

1. R&D, Technology Development

PERC invests in the research, development, and commercialization of clean propane-powered technologies for the nearly 50 million homeowners, businesses, farms, and fleets that use the fuel each day. Through partnerships with universities, researchers, and top brand manufacturers, PERC helps bring new technologies to market and promotes them to customers through national and state-level incentive programs.

Technology Incubation in Action

PERC R&D support has played a critical role in expanding the portfolio of propane-autogas-powered vehicles on the market today. PERC investments drove the commercialization of Roush CleanTech's Ford F-Series trucks, the Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp. Propane S2G, and propane-autogas-powered school buses from Blue Bird, Collins, Thomas Built, and IC Bus.

2. Safety

Nothing is more important to PERC than the safety of those who work with, sell, or buy propane. Through proactive outreach to consumer safety organizations, trade groups, emergency responders, and the public, PERC increases awareness of safe propane storage and handling practices.

Safety in Action

The Propane Emergencies Program was created to teach emergency responders the proper course of action during an emergency situation such as an accidental overfill of a propane tank, a grill fire, or an underground tank leak. Today, it is used by 27 state firefighter training agencies.

3. Training

Because a well-trained propane workforce is essential to protecting the well-being of propane consumers and the public, PERC provides training programs, tools, and resources to the thousands of propane retailers nationwide. Interactive training tools are also available to end-

users, including farmers, fleet vehicle technicians, and homebuilders to promote the safe use of this affordable, clean, American-made fuel.

Training in Action

The Certified Employee Training Program (CETP) provides a cutting edge interactive e-learning tool that thousands of propane technicians use each year. Course topics include basic principles and practices of propane, bobtail delivery operations, and plant operations.

How is PERC governed and funded?

PERC was authorized by the U.S. Congress with the passage of the Propane Education and Research Act (PERA), signed into law on Oct. 11, 1996. PERC is governed by a 21-member board appointed by the National Propane Gas Association and the Gas Processors Association. Each association appoints nine Council members and they cooperate in the appointment of three public members.

PERC's operations and activities are funded by an assessment levied on each gallon of propane gas at the point it is odorized or imported into the United States. The assessment, authorized under PERA, is now four-tenths of a cent per gallon.