

CASE STUDY: HAYWOOD PUBLIC TRANSIT



Susan Anderson, Transit Director
 Clyde, North Carolina

FLEET STATISTICS

BACKGROUND

Haywood Public Transit has been in operation since 1989. The system serves the residents of Haywood County and connects services to neighboring counties. Haywood County is in the western part of North Carolina and serves a population of over 60,000.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

20 vehicles, averaging 450,000-500,000 miles per year and providing an average of 52,000 trips per year. Our public transportation system provides services to the local college, jobs, medical appointments and the elderly and disabled as well as local agencies and businesses.

WORKING WITH ALLIANCE AUTOGAS

Our relationship began in 2012 and took over nine months to complete the process of converting six vehicles. Haywood Public Transit is a non-profit and we experienced much red tape. Part of the delay was due to the fact we were in the middle of construction of a new facility and we had delays convincing our Board this was going to be a savings to the operational budget. With a good amount of hand-holding with Alliance AutoGas through a long process, they approved to move forward with the project.

RESULTS AND AUTOGAS BENEFITS

The positive results are obviously the savings to fuel costs. Unfortunately, all of our vehicles do not operate off of propane but that continues to be a goal. To date, we will see an annual estimated savings of \$15,000 with 6 vehicles and 19,000 of annual mileage. After four years we estimate the same vehicles and annual mileage will save us \$25,000-\$30,000. As a Director of a non-profit public transit system, fuel costs are one of the biggest areas of concern. Alliance AutoGas presented the opportunity to convert our vehicles with an affordable option to lease the equipment, which was the most attractive option for our budgetary concern.

MOVING FORWARD

The convenience of on-site fueling is a major plus for our operators. There is no excuse not to use these propane vehicles. They are the primary vehicles assigned to regular routes, therefore saving more money. The loss of the fuel tax credit is concerning as our savings will not be as great. We have hopes that the bill will be passed once again and retro-active as of January 1st. The overall experience of working with Alliance AutoGas has been positive and we look forward to a continuing positive relationship. Had the opportunity to lease the equipment not been available, there is no way we, as a non-profit, could have participated in the project!

FLEET TYPE:

Public Transportation

NUMBER OF FLEET VEHICLES RUNNING ON AUTOGAS: 6

(3 lift conversion vans, 3 Mini Buses or LTV's)

TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS: \$15,000 while leasing vehicles

ADDITIONAL VEHICLES SLATED FOR AUTOGAS CONVERSION: 6 more lift vans

ANTICIPATED ANNUAL USAGE: 6,000 gallons per year

ANNUAL MILEAGE: 19,000 with Propane Vehicles

AUTOGAS FUELING: On-Site

TIME OPERATING ON AUTOGAS: 12 months