



SPRINGFIELD, OHIO SAVES TAXPAYER DOLLARS BY USING PROPANE EQUIPMENT

DRIVING PROPANE AUTOGAS VEHICLES MADE FOR AN EASY TRANSITION TO USING PROPANE MOWERS

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO needed to cut costs throughout its city budget after funding to city governments was reduced by the state in response to the 2008 recession. One solution the city turned to was implementing propane autogas vehicles into fleets, and later adding propane-powered commercial mowers, which significantly reduced fuel costs compared to gasoline and diesel. Propane costs the city \$0.30 less per gallon compared to diesel, and \$0.58 less per gallon compared to gasoline, in part because the city purchases in bulk from a local propane supplier to fill its 1,000-gallon storage tank. Springfield started using propane autogas in 2009, adding nine total propane autogas vehicles over several years. After seeing impressive results with propane autogas, the city began incorporating propane-powered mowers to its forestry department in 2016.

The city's existing relationship with local propane suppliers from using propane autogas made the transition to propane mowers simple. Five propane-powered zero-turn radius mowers are now regularly used to maintain the city's three public cemeteries, 320 vacant lots, and all city right-of-ways.

The forestry department likes using propane so much that it's aiming to convert all but the largest of its seven commercial mowers to the alternative fuel. For its veteran crews, the propane equipment operates similar to gasoline mowers, and the reduced emissions are a point of pride. Using propane mowers reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent, nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by 19 percent, and sulfur oxide (SOx) emissions by 16 percent. Even for new crew members using commercial mowers for the first time, the learning process to operate and refuel the city's propane mowers is quick, and the propane mowers are often preferred to gasoline or diesel equipment.

EQUIPMENT FLEET PROFILE

- 5 Propane mowers
- 9 Propane autogas vehicles (light-duty trucks and 12-passenger van)
- 1 1,000-gallon propane tank and refueling station

PROPANE HIGHLIGHTS

UP TO 7 HOURS

of mowing with just one propane cylinder increases operator productivity.

LOW EMISSIONS

support the city's goal to reduce its overall carbon footprint.

**"OVERALL,
IT RUNS JUST LIKE A
GASOLINE ENGINE."**

JAMES WILLIS
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
FORESTRY SUPERVISOR

\$2,500

less in upfront costs for the city to purchase a new propane mower than a comparable diesel mower.

QUICK PROCESS

for experienced and new crew members learning to operate and refuel the mowers.

"SOME OF OUR OPERATORS ARE FRESH OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL AND HAVE NEVER USED A COMMERCIAL MOWER. FOR THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCE, PROPANE IS QUICK FOR THEM TO PICK UP AND OUR OPERATORS OFTEN END UP PREFERRED THE PROPANE MOWERS."

CHRIS MOORE, CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD SERVICE DIRECTOR



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn about commercial propane-powered lawn mowers, the Propane Mower Incentive Program, and more, visit Propane.com/Commercial-Landscape.

THE PROPANE EDUCATION & RESEARCH COUNCIL was authorized by the U.S. Congress with the passage of Public Law 104-284, the Propane Education and Research Act (PERA), signed into law on October 11, 1996. The mission of the Propane Education & Research Council is to promote the safe, efficient use of odorized propane gas as a preferred energy source.

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