

May 17, 2016

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Tennessee Clean Fuels Welcomes Inaugural Class of Tennessee Green Fleet Certified Fleets

Certification Program Now Available for Tennessee-based Fleets

Chattanooga, TN – On Thursday May 12, Tennessee Clean Fuels (TCF) inducted the first 8 fleets into the “Tennessee Green Fleets” Certification Program. The fleets were recognized at the University of Chattanooga during the 2nd annual Sustainable Transportation Awards & Forum, which is managed by the Tennessee Departments of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) and Transportation (TDOT). TCF collaborated with them on the event and assisted in setting up a 20-vehicle alternative fuel vehicle showcase that incorporated CNG, plug-in electric, propane autogas, hybrid, and other advanced technology vehicles.



The **Tennessee Green Fleets Certification Program** was developed jointly by the Middle-West and East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalitions. It is designed to utilize performance-based metrics to analyze any fleet’s vehicle and fuel-use data, and compare new actions they have taken to what their footprint would have looked like without those actions. A points-based, 3-star system allows for certification at the 1-, 2- or 3-star level, if they met the appropriate points-minimum at each level. The Program encompasses all fuel and technology options including biodiesel, natural gas, propane, electric, ethanol, hybrid, idle-reduction and fuel economy strategies. The applicant fleets that receive certification can promote their fleet’s greening efforts and include that in its sustainability portfolio information.



ETCleanFuels' board President Paul Leath and TDEC's Office of Energy Programs Director Molly R. Cripps (left side) join the program's inaugural fleets and coalition coordinators in a group photo.

The fleets across the state that received certification are:

1-star fleets:

- ✓ **Gibson County Utility District** – Built a public CNG station in small West-Tennessee community of Trenton for all citizens (that includes the utilization of solar power) and have moved almost half of their 36-vehicle fleet to CNG. Significant efforts to reach out into communities across the entire state of Tennessee to discuss how CNG is a great option for using cleaner, American fuels.
- ✓ **Scott Appalachian Industries** – Built public CNG station in small East-Tennessee community of Huntsville/Oneida for all citizens and have transitioned half of their fleet to CNG. Provide services that include transporting citizens needing assistance to and from hospitals and other medical service providers back and forth between Scott County and Knox County.
- ✓ **City of Kingsport, Police Fleet** – The largest propane fleet across the entire state with a total of over 50 autogas vehicles, with 23 police cars that include Crown Victorias and Dodge Chargers. Police officers are now requesting propane because of the quieter, smoother ride, and 10 more autogas cars expected to be added in 2016.



2-star fleets:

- ✓ **Turf Managers, LLC** – 8 of their 14 professional mowers run on propane, and they are planning on switching more over to autogas. They enforce an idle reduction policy, and use hour meters to ensure that vehicles are turned off.
- ✓ **Common Grounds Landscape Management** – All 18 of their professional mowers operate on propane, and they have spent a significant amount of time showcasing their work with propane in talking to other landscaping fleets as well as other fleets anywhere about their successes using propane.



3-star fleets:

- ✓ **Waste Management, Antioch Operations** – They have transitioned 68 of their 90 refuse trucks out of their Antioch, TN (near Nashville) operations center to CNG and over 80 percent of the fuel use there is CNG. They opened a “Clean-n-Green” CNG station to the public and it exists as the only public CNG station on the south side of Nashville for CNG vehicles.
- ✓ **UPS, Class-8 Fleet** – UPS operates 283 class-8 LNG trucks that are based out of Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis – over one-third of all of their class 8 vehicles in Tennessee. Additionally, not only do they communicate at national events about their “rolling laboratory,” they have helped their local coalition with tours of their facilities in Knoxville.
- ✓ **Sullens Transport** – All 40 of their class-8, dairy product-hauling trucks run on B99 which they produce in-house. This biodiesel use results in a 67% reduction in their greenhouse gas emissions compared to running diesel!



Pat Riley of Gibson County Utility District – a new 1-star certified fleet – and his CNG F150 that he has shown all over Tennessee to education Tennesseans about CNG.



Robert Cheney (middle) receives the certification award for Waste Management’s Antioch CNG fleet. Kristy Keel-Blackmon of Middle-West TN Clean Fuels is second from left, and Jonathan Overly of East Tennessee Clean Fuels is at right.

TCF has been helping Tennessee fleets make the change from petroleum to alternatives for a decade and a half, and the Tennessee Green Fleets Certification Program was developed to be another resource for fleets looking to initiate positive, sustainable growth in their operations. TCF can review the Green Fleets scoring system with a fleet to help them start assessing different fuels and technologies to see what might provide the most benefits for their actions. Combined with looking at the ROI of such decisions, the fleet can gain insights to inform their greener fleet planning and process. Tennessee Clean Fuels is fuel, technology, and vendor neutral, and helps each fleet connect with its best opportunities to improve economic and environmental performance. *More photos can be found here:*

<http://bit.ly/TGF-2016>.

About Tennessee Clean Fuels: <http://www.TNCleanFuels.org> – The Middle-West and East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalitions are both nonprofit 501(c)3s working proactively with fleets across Tennessee to reduce dependence on petroleum and improve air quality and sustainability. The two coalitions are part of the DOE Clean Cities Program and respectively serve the western and eastern halves of Tennessee. They work to develop partnerships that assist fleets in meeting their goals toward implementing petroleum-saving technologies and fuels.