

## CASE STUDY: DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA

### PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Georgia's DeKalb County, a hub of activity boasting a population of 700,000 near Atlanta, is the third most populated county in the state. As the home to thousands of acres of wetlands, forests and streams, DeKalb County officials have been committed to reducing the carbon footprint of their fleet vehicles. In 2009 the Atlanta Regional Commission recognized DeKalb County with a "Green Communities" designation for their efforts in conserving energy, water, fuel

The challenge was to cut rising fuel costs while finding new technology that allows for continued use of the county's fuel choice – propane autogas.

### WORKING WITH ALLIANCE AUTOGAS

To cut rising fuel costs, DeKalb County integrated 200 propane autogas sedans and pickup trucks into their fleet in 1998. "The propane performed immediately," says Richard Miller, superintendent of DeKalb County's fleet management automotive garage. "The county saw savings right away in both cost and environmental integrity." Historically propane autogas costs have been 30 to 40 percent less than gasoline. Government statistics project this cost savings on propane to continue over the next 25 years.

With a large number of their fleet vehicles using propane autogas, it was a natural decision to install on-site refueling infrastructure to handle the volume of fuel used. "We have six refueling sites. Four have 1,000 gallon tank capacities and two have a 2,000 gallon tank capacity," says Miller. "These were put in immediately after acquiring the first propane vehicles back in 1998 and were constructed to offset fuel costs." County officials worked with their local Clean Cities Coalition to secure grant funding during the installation process. The sites were chosen to coincide with existing county fuel sites and to offer easy access for county employees. The refueling sites used exclusively by DeKalb County are supplied by Blossman Gas.

### RESULTS AND AUTOGAS BENEFITS

Today, DeKalb County has 93 light-duty vehicles and 11 pieces of off-road equipment powered by propane autogas. Regardless of the job, Miller says these propane autogas trucks experience similar miles per gallon and excellent drivability, all while reducing the county's dependence on foreign energy and saving taxpayer dollars with lower fuel and maintenance costs. And the drivers have expressed appreciation for the trucks' horsepower and acceleration.

DeKalb County's usage of safe and non-toxic propane autogas to power their on-road fleet is reducing their carbon footprint by 340,000 pounds of carbon each year, and eliminating more than 100,000 gallon of foreign oil from the supply chain. "The decision is still paying off, with reported fuel savings of approximately \$73,000 in 2009 and \$64,000 in 2010" adds Miller. "At its highest, gasoline cost us \$2.63 per gallon, while our propane autogas was \$1.89 during the same period based on the county's bulk fuel rates."



Richard E. Miller  
Fleet Service Superintendent  
DeKalb County

### FLEET STATISTICS

**FLEET TYPE:** Ford F-150 trucks;  
Crown Victoria's; F-450 watershed  
trucks; and 11 pieces of equipment

**AUTOGAS VEHICLES IN FLEET:**  
**94**

**TOTAL ESTIMATED 3-YEAR  
SAVINGS:**  
**\$428,360.00**

**ADDITIONAL VEHICLES SLATED  
FOR AUTOGAS CONVERSION:**  
DeKalb County will be converting  
more units as new engine packages  
are certified

**ANTICIPATED ANNUAL USAGE  
(gallons of gasoline displaced):**  
**100,000+ gallons**

**CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION:**  
4250 pounds of carbon dioxide per  
vehicle, per year eliminated from  
footprint. 340,000 pounds of carbon  
dioxide per year eliminated from  
DeKalb's County's total carbon  
footprint for Ford F-150 fleet

**AUTOGAS FUELING:**  
Four (4) 1000-gallon and two (2)  
2000-gallon on-site refueling stations

**TIME OPERATING ON AUTOGAS:**  
**3.5 years**

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### MOVING FORWARD

Plans for the future are already in the works with Chevrolet and Ford for additional cars and trucks to be integrated into DeKalb County's fleet as bi-fuel and or dedicated.