

SUCCESS STORY: RALEIGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

In May 2011, the Raleigh Police Department began working with Alliance AutoGas to shift their patrol car fleet to propane autogas. The environmental benefits and reduced vehicle maintenance needs of autogas vehicles, combined with the lower cost for fuel, were a driving force in the city's decision to launch their alternative fuel program. With funding from a Department of Energy grant and guidance from Alliance AutoGas on every step of the process, converting their fleet to run on clean-burning, affordable propane autogas was a simple decision for the Raleigh PD. Within the first three years, RPD converted a total of 50 Crown Victorias.

WORKING WITH ALLIANCE AUTOGAS

With the Alliance AutoGas complete program, the Raleigh police fleet had one point of contact through every aspect of the conversion process, including the autogas vehicle conversions, fuel station installation, autogas fuel supply, staff safety training and ongoing technical support. Alliance installed an on-site 1,000-gallon fueling station just outside the Raleigh North District stationhouse so officers will always have easy, reliable autogas fueling access.

“The city of Raleigh is able to make driving clean a priority with the switch to propane autogas, even in the face of shrinking municipal budgets,” said Mike Phillips of Alliance AutoGas, who works closely with the Raleigh Police Department to make their autogas program a success. “No other fuel has the benefits of being cost-effective, clean and domestically produced, all while maintaining performance and range for fleets like law enforcement, who need vehicle dependability the most.”

The City of Raleigh is considering additional fuel station installations to locations in close proximity to the Raleigh Police District Stations. This will ease the process of locating and refueling.

AUTOGAS BENEFITS FOR RALEIGH PD

The EPA-certified autogas conversions utilize the Prins VSI bi-fuel system from Alliance AutoGas co-founding partner American Alternative Fuel, enabling vehicles to transition seamlessly between autogas and gasoline with the push of a button. This feature is especially attractive to law enforcement fleets because it provides peace of mind if the autogas fuel tank ever runs low out of fuel station range. Another benefit of the versatile Prins VSI system is that it is easily transferrable from one vehicle to another—meaning high-mileage fleets like the Raleigh PD can simply transfer the autogas systems to newer certified vehicle models when the older vehicles run their course. The Raleigh Police Department also expects to experience savings on maintenance costs, such as fewer oil changes, due to the high-octane rating of autogas.

MOVING FORWARD

The Raleigh Police Department is pleased with the performance of their clean-burning propane autogas cruisers, as well as the fuel savings they have experienced. The city is planning to add 7 additional police fleet vehicles to run on autogas through the Alliance AutoGas complete program, continuing their mission to save taxpayer dollars while ensuring cleaner air for the Raleigh community.



Cassandra Deck-Brown
Police Chief
Raleigh, NC

FLEET STATISTICS

FLEET TYPE: Law Enforcement

AUTOGAS VEHICLES IN FLEET:
29

TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS:
\$5,000+

ADDITIONAL VEHICLES SLATED FOR AUTOGAS CONVERSION:
7

ANTICIPATED ANNUAL USAGE:
11,000+ gallons

ANNUAL MILEAGE (per vehicle):
9,000+

AUTOGAS FUELING:
Onsite autogas fueling infrastructure, including one 1,000-gallon autogas tank

TIME OPERATING ON AUTOGAS:
8 years