

City to acquire 70 natural gas-fueled refuse and brush trucks

Clean, domestic natural gas to replace 220,000 gallons of diesel fuel usage annually

The City of Birmingham will purchase 70 natural gas-fueled refuse and brush trucks. These new trucks will be the largest fleet of natural gas-fueled refuse trucks in the Southeast.

The refuse trucks will run on clean, domestic natural gas. By using natural gas-fueled refuse trucks, the city will be able to eliminate 220,000 gallons of diesel fuel usage each year.

Emissions from diesel fuel contribute to Birmingham's non-attainment status for particulate matter and ground level ozone. Clean-burning natural gas reduces NOx by 50 percent and particulate matter by 95 percent compared to diesel.

Cleaner air means increased economic development opportunities in a non-attainment zone.

Birmingham's geographic location near three major interstate highways positions the city to become a hub for natural gas vehicle (NGV) activity in the future. In addition, using clean, domestic natural gas reduces dependence on foreign oil and helps create jobs.

"We have to start now to end our dependence on oil by looking for cheaper and cleaner alternative fuels," said Mayor Larry P. Langford. This is a good first step for our city."

This project is the first public/private partnership in Alabama to use natural gas fueled refuse trucks.

Several organizations are working with the City, including Alagasco and the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition.

The city expects to be notified in September 2009 about a federal grant to be applied for in conjunction to this project to pay for CNG fueling stations in the area.

NOTE: This is the text from the official press release distributed at yesterday's event. For more information, contact the mayor's office using the information below:

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