

Brookhaven Host Ribbon Cutting Ceremony For Expanded Natural Gas Fueling Station in Coram

posted on 12/21/2009 5:21:35 PM

Brookhaven, NY- Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko and members of the Town Council today held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a newly expanded compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station. The fueling station was funded with a \$208,000 grant from the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality program of the Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition, and a \$52,000 match by the Town, as well as a \$121,500 state grant, matched with \$13,500 in Town funds. Joining town officials at the ribbon cutting were representatives from regional gas utility National Grid and Air & Gas Technologies.

The ribbon cutting took place at the new newly expanded fueling station located at the Town of Brookhaven's Coram Highway yard, which doubled in size under the project. The natural gas used to produce CNG onsite at the station is supplied by regional gas utility National Grid.

"This new fueling station will allow us to expand the Town's fleet of CNG vehicles to protect our environment, and enhance the quality of life for our residents. The vehicles that use CNG are quieter, cleaner, and create much less pollution than the diesel trucks they replace," said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

With this newly expanded station, the Town will be able to expand its capacity to fuel a growing fleet of CNG vehicles, and to increase our user base to incorporate new shared fuel partners at the state and local school district level. The Middle Country Central School District has an agreement with Brookhaven to use the facility to fuel five CNG school buses, while the New York State Department of Transportation intends to fuel between 10-15 medium to heavy-duty vehicles, with additional vehicles passing through the region, at the expanded CNG fueling station in Coram.

"Using CNG vehicles brings clean, green, economical technology to Brookhaven, which reduce toxic emissions, and green house gases," said Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh. "By partnering with the Middle Country School District to use this facility, the district was able to expand the use of CNG buses, without the increased cost of constructing a facility of their own. With partnerships and projects like this, Brookhaven is leading the way on Long Island in the quest to seek alternative energy solutions."

According to the Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition, natural gas is the cleanest burning alternative fuel and, therefore, natural gas vehicles (NGV) exhaust emissions are much lower than gasoline and diesel fueled vehicles. Compared to gasoline engines, NGV emissions of carbon monoxide are approximately 70 percent lower, non-methane organic emissions are 89 percent lower and oxides of nitrogen emissions are 87 percent lower. NGVs also produce significantly lower levels of suspended fine particulates compared to diesel engines, thereby reducing the risk of respiratory illnesses. Concerning "greenhouse" gases such as ozone, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, NGVs produce lower concentrations of these constituents since, per unit of energy, natural gas contains less carbon molecules than other fossil fuels. For example, NGVs emit approximately 70 percent lower levels of carbon monoxide as compared to gasoline-powered vehicles of similar size.

"The benefits of converting to a natural gas vehicle fleet are clear. Natural gas vehicle exhaust emissions are much lower than gasoline and diesel fueled vehicles, and produce lower levels of air pollution compared to diesel engines, reducing the risk of respiratory illnesses for our residents," said Councilwoman Connie Kepert.

"Expanding the number of Town vehicles that use CNG will make our fleet more efficient while helping to make the air we breathe cleaner," said Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld. "Using green alternatives such as CNG reduces noise and air pollution, improving the quality of life for our residents."

"The Town of Brookhaven continues to lead the way in clean energy use," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner. "The days of our residents waking up to loud, dirty diesel-fueled trucks spewing black smoke are quickly becoming a thing of the past. Our trucks now will not only clean up our streets, but also the air we breath."

"Brookhaven was a leader in the green conversion to a cleaner burning natural gas fleet. Since January 1, 2009 all

vehicles collecting the Town's municipal solid waste and recycling materials are now powered by CNG. The Town-contracted fleet is the largest powered by CNG on Long Island," said Councilman Timothy Mazzei.

"I am pleased to see our Town government continuing to move forward in our pursuit of energy efficiency and economy," said Superintendent of Highways John Rouse.

"National Grid supports the further commitment that the Town of Brookhaven has made in the investment and expansion of the CNG station as well as their collaboration for a shared municipal incentive agreement with Middle Country Central School District. The Town is moving towards a greener future by growing their fleet of CNG vehicles. By converting to natural gas, the Town of Brookhaven will see significant improvements in air quality. In addition, there will be economic benefits for the Town of Brookhaven resulting from the more stable and less expensive CNG fuel," said Joseph Rende, National Grid Vice President for Energy Solutions Service, New York

About National Grid

National Grid is an international energy delivery company. In the U.S., National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island, and manages the electricity network on Long Island under an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island. National Grid also owns over 4,000 megawatts of contracted electricity generation that provides power to over one million LIPA customers.

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