



Several RAMSafe Buses to Go Green by June 30th

VCU Fleet Management, in partnership with Alliance Autogas, is converting seven RamSafe buses from gasoline only to a bi-fuel of liquid propane (LP) and gasoline. Training will be provided for RamSafe drivers and the Fleet Maintenance staff.



The cost of the conversion, approximately \$40,000, will be reimbursed by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy upon project completion in mid-June. Estimated fuel savings will be around \$15k for FY16 and possibly more if gasoline prices continue to rise while propane prices remain stable.

“Opportunities to expand our alternative fuel usage exist at VCU and these vehicle conversions are just the beginning,” said Fleet Manager Craig Willingham, “the decision to take advantage of this opportunity and invest in a more sustainable fleet simply made a lot of sense.”

Each bus will take about one week to convert and vehicle performance should remain virtually unchanged. The DGS fuel site on Leigh St., where most VCU vehicles transact fuel, will now support LP in addition to gasoline and E85 fuels.

Nissan Leaf to Arrive as a Demo Vehicle for Test Drive



VCU Fleet Management will have a Nissan Leaf available for a test drive within the next few weeks. Currently, there are four small electric trucks used within FMD and electric vehicles have been identified as a good option for the current fleet mix.

Customers will be notified once the demo dates have been confirmed.

For more information about vehicle demos and alternate fuel opportunities, contact Craig Willingham at (804) 828-6585.

Preventative Maintenance Program for Facilities Management Vehicles to Begin July 1st

On July 1, a preventative maintenance (PM) program will be launched for all Facilities Management vehicles. The PM program, administered by VCU Fleet Management, will cover items such as State and multi-point inspections, oil changes, vehicle system services and normally worn components like tires, brakes, wiper blades and batteries for a monthly fee, which will be determined by the vehicle's application. Customers will receive notifications as selected services become due. In addition, vehicles participating in the PM program will also be enrolled in the State's roadside assistance program for coordination of remote and after-hours road calls. The PM program will be run as a pilot program for FY 16 with the goal of expanding across the entire fleet in the future.

Registration Copy Requests

During the conversion from paper to electronic copies of fleet vehicle information, it was discovered that some vehicles do not have vehicle registrations on file. Requests for copies of these forms will be sent to customer departments within the next few weeks. If you have questions regarding vehicle registration, contact Fleet Manager Craig Willingham at 828-6585. Thank you for your assistance!

Fleet Safety Tip: Checking Tire Pressure Regularly

Proper tire inflation is critical to fleet vehicles. The benefits include tire life extension, fuel economy improvement and accident prevention. The following video link provides some valuable information on tire inflation and what you can do to help keep your fleet vehicle running properly.

<http://www.automotive-fleet.com/channel/safety-accident-management/video/detail/2015/04/the-importance-of-checking-tire-pressure-regularly.aspx?refresh=true>

Improvements Taking Shape at Fleet Maintenance Shop

The Fleet Maintenance Shop improved space utilization by creating a storage area in the shop building to secure specialized tools and equipment as well as to reduce potential safety hazards. And with the assistance of business units within Physical Plant, Fleet Maintenance increased their footprint while reducing congestion in two of the four shop bays. A second project was the installation of an unused television in the break room so that it can be used as a tool for training and staff meetings. Future improvements under consideration include new vehicle lifts, painting and signage.

