

# **CASE STUDY:**

Bradford Area School District, Bradford, Pennsylvania

### Background

Bradford Area School District is located in a mountainous region in northern Pennsylvania surrounded by the Allegheny National Forest. In 2013, the district embarked on a forwardthinking initiative to integrate environmentally friendly school buses that run on a locally available fuel supply, protect the district's tight budget and perform reliably in the harsh climate and mountainous region of north central Pennsylvania. For a decade, the propane buses have successfully managed the weather, terrain, and wear and tear of daily operation in Pennsylvania while saving the district thousands in fuel and maintenance costs. Today, the district operates 100% of its bus routes using propane vehicles.

### Why Propane Autogas?

According to Bradford Area School District staff:

- Reduced cabin noise.
- Locally produced fuel.
- Zero cold-start issues.

"Over my 40-year career, in which I have overseen the purchase and maintenance of hundreds of buses, I have never seen a bus design that saves over \$3,000 per year. Our propane buses are easy to maintain, create less pollution, increase financial savings and operate on a local fuel."

Barry Bryan, director of transportation

### By the Numbers



100% of routes run on propane



68% fuel savings per gallon (compared with diesel)



90% propane fleet



**ZERO** cold weather start-up issues

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#### **Decade of Success**

Like many Pennsylvania school districts, Bradford Area School District grapples with a tight budget. District leadership was thrilled that the district saw a return on its investment within the first year of operation. Today, the district saves \$60,000 annually on fuel and maintenance costs.

The district is located in an area with an abundance of propane due to local Marcellus and shallow wells. Using propane supports local industry and the broader community.

District staff have only positive feedback about their decade-long experience operating propane school buses. Outside of regular preventative maintenance, the district's propane buses have not required additional service.

## Preference for Propane

Diesel rate	\$4.70 per gallon
Propane rate	\$1.50 per gallon

(Bradford Area School District's current fuel rates)

The district's price per gallon of propane includes a \$0.37 per gallon government incentive through the alternative fuel tax credit. The district also received a \$5,000 rebate on the cost of each initial bus in 2013, and has subsequently accessed funding from Pennsylvania's Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant program as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program.

### Did You Know?

More than 35% of the nation's largest school districts operate propane buses powered by ROUSH CleanTech's advanced clean fuel system.





**Over 1.3 million** students travel to school in a propane bus each day.

New ROUSH CleanTech propane vehicles are **90% cleaner** in NOx than the EPA and California Air Resources Board regulations set to take effect in 2027.





Propane autogas offers the **lowest total cost** of ownership.

More than 90% of the United States propane supply is produced domestically.







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