PROPANE INFRASTRUCTURE 101: 10 STEPS TO SUCCESS

Understanding Propane Infrastructure So Your Customers Can, Too

Understanding propane infrastructure is key to supporting your customers as they consider purchasing propane buses. By helping your customers navigate propane infrastructure — from site assessment to fueling options — you position your dealership as a trustworthy resource for adopting cleaner, more efficient student transportation. Use this checklist and information to guide your customers through a seamless infrastructure setup.

10-STEP INFRASTRUCTURE CHECKLIST:

1 ASSESS FLEET NEEDS

The school district should analyze its current fuel consumption, route distances and vehicle types. It should also determine the project scope or annual fleet cycle, such as how many units may be replaced annually. Determining these helps the propane company with propane tank size.

2 CONDUCT SITE SURVEY

Check with your ROUSH CleanTech representative on experienced autogas propane vendors in your area, then the school district will work with the supplier to survey the property. They will identify the best location for tanks and dispensers, ensuring there is adequate space for bus maneuvering and safety setbacks.

3 CHOOSE PROPANE SUPPLIER

The school district can then choose the experienced propane autogas supplier it would like to work with. They will then act as the project manager, guiding the district through equipment selection, safety regulations, installation and long-term fuel supply contracts.

4 SELECT FUELING OPTION

The school district and propane supplier will decide which infrastructure model fits its needs the best (see “Propane Fueling Options”). The choice depends on considerations like budget, fleet size and growth projections.

The right propane company will provide the equipment at no charge with a fuel contract.

5 SECURE NECESSARY PERMITS

Most propane suppliers will handle the permits, or they will provide guidance regarding permits and paperwork.

6 CHOOSE EQUIPMENT

The school district, with the guidance of the propane provider, will select the number and size of propane tanks, pumps and dispensers. With propane, it is scalable, so you can start small and add tanks and/or dispensers as your propane fleet grows.

7 COORDINATE SITE PREPARATION

The school district will consult with the propane provider on preparing the physical site. This may involve pouring concrete pads, installing crash protection (bollards), and running electrical lines for the dispensers. Site construction is usually handled by the school district.

8 OVERSEE INSTALLATION

The propane provider will install the tank(s) and pumps. Because propane infrastructure is mainly modular, this phase is often much faster and more cost effective than building CNG infrastructure or electric charging stations.

9 SCHEDULE SAFETY TRAINING

Before a school bus driver pumps a single gallon, the propane supplier or ROUSH CleanTech can provide training for drivers and maintenance staff on how to fuel vehicles properly. In addition, the propane provider will walk the customer through the entire fueling system and explain how it works.

10 ESTABLISH A MAINTENANCE PLAN

The school district will set up a routine maintenance schedule. Regular inspections of hoses, nozzles and pumps ensure safety and maximize the lifespan of the equipment. For leased propane fueling sites, your provider will be responsible for this.

PROPANE FUELING OPTIONS:

Onsite Station


Mobile Fueling


Aboveground


Underground

ONSITE STATIONS: The most convenient option for centralized fleets. The school district builds a private station on its property, giving it full control over fuel supply and the lowest price per gallon with a signed contract.

MOBILE FUELING: Ideal for fleets with limited space or those just starting out. A propane bobtail truck comes directly to the bus yard to fill the vehicles, requiring zero infrastructure investment.

PROPANE TANK LOCATION OPTIONS:

Aboveground: Tank is placed on a prepared concrete pad.
Underground: Tank is placed in a hole that meets necessary requirements.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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