

2nd July 2009

LPG autogas Helps Fleets Go Green

The number of vehicles being converted to run on LPG grew in 2008 by 36% compared to the previous year bringing the total of LPG vehicles on Britain's roads to over 155,000.

Following the government's commitment on fuel duty for the next five years and with petrol prices still expected to climb, UKLPG, the trade body for the industry and custodian of the LPGA Approved Installer Scheme, believes that LPG autogas has increased its appeal to fleet managers.

According to research carried out by the Corporate Vehicle Observatory (CVO), 60% of businesses intend to include green vehicles within their fleets over the next three years.

Autogas Manager, Mike Chapman, said

"With the growing need for businesses to keep costs and emissions down, LPG autogas is now a very attractive option to fleets."

"LPG costs around half the price of petrol at the forecourt, and although you do get less miles to the gallon on LPG compared to petrol, it works out at a saving of around 40% on fuel costs."

LPG autogas is one of the cleanest fuels on the market. Independent tests have shown that running on LPG autogas produces 20% less CO₂ than petrol, and when compared with diesel, 2% less CO₂, 20 times less Nox and 120 times less harmful particulates. It is available at over 1400 refuelling stations in the UK making it by far the most readily available alternative fuel.

Glenn Ewen, Fleet Manager at Clear Channel Outdoor UK added:

"I believe that LPG has a strong future, especially as petrol fuel prices continue to fluctuate widely. LPG remains more consistent and helps reduce our fuel costs. However, the biggest benefit remains that it is so much cleaner which is core to our company's strong sustainability commitments."

Clear Channel Outdoor UK is one of the UK's top 50 Green Companies, according to the Sunday Times Green List, and operates a fleet of 530 vehicles, of which 370 are light commercial vehicles and the remainder are cars. It has now been using LPG autogas since 1997 and in that time has dramatically reduced its fuel costs and CO₂ emissions.

Prior to the fleet moving to LPG autogas, Clear Channel's fleet was travelling 14 million miles per annum, producing an estimated 4,990 tonnes of CO₂ yearly and emitting large quantities of nitrous oxide and particulates.

By 2008 the total vehicle mileage had been reduced by 4.75 million miles per annum, CO₂ was reduced by 1,760 tonnes per year and were saving £200,000 per annum on fuel costs and London Congestion Charges.

More...

Notes to journalists

- 1 UKLPG is the trade association for the LPG industry in the UK, and represents up to 99% of the total LPG sales in the UK, around 80% of autogas equipment sales and the participants in the LPG Approved installer Scheme account for approximately 70% of vehicle conversions.
- 2 Filling up could not be easier as the UK has a comprehensive refuelling infrastructure with over 1400 public access sites, most of which are on petrol forecourts in key motorway locations, making it the most widely available alternative fuel.
- 3 Almost all petrol-engine vehicles can be converted to run on LPG autogas. Most LPG installations are completely integrated with the existing fuel and engine management systems of modern vehicles, resulting in a reliable and efficient system with no loss of performance.
- 4 Information regarding Clear Channel has been provided by Clear Channel Outdoor UK Ltd. For further information please contact Zoe Jones at zoe.jones@clearchannel.co.uk
- 5 If you would like to test drive an LPG autogas-fuelled car for yourself then please let us know and we will be delighted to arrange a drive at a time and location that is convenient for you. We will also be pleased to arrange a one-to-one interview with our Chief Executive Rob Shuttleworth or our Autogas Manager Mike Chapman if you wish.
- 6 LPG autogas currently retails at around 52.5 per litre in the UK compared to about 103.9p for a litre of petrol. (*Source: www.petrolprices.com 02/07/09.*)
- 7 The cost of a conversion averages across the systems available from an LPGA Approved Installer at £1600 for an average car (1.8 engine). This cost will vary dependant on the size of engine and system fitted. Costs range from as little as £800 up to £2,500.

For further information contact:

Lisa Thomson, Communications Manager, UKLPG
Email lisa.thomson@uklpg.org
Telephone: 02476 711702 Mobile: 07912 194930
Website: www.drivelpg.co.uk
Website: www.uklpg.org