

Propane Buses

Why choose them?



Burke County Schools

- 834 square miles
- 480 miles of unpaved roads
- One high school
- One middle school
- Three elementary schools
- Transport 3,100 in the A.M. and 3,300 in the P.M.



Our Buses

- Utilize approximately 100 buses per day
- Normal 8:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. routes
- In addition:
 - Transport 100 students to the Ombudsman school program every 3 hours
 - Transport students for the 21st Century After School Program for the past 8 years
 - This utilizes 12 buses for elementary students at 5:30.
 - This utilizes another 12 buses for middle and high school at 6:00 P.M.



More Routes!!!

- 8 buses pick up athletics and band at 6:30 P.M. year round.
- Most after school routes run up to 9:00 P.M.
- Most after school program buses average 200 miles per day.



Summer

- We participate in the USDA Feed-A-Kid Program.
- 16 buses deliver 4,500 meals per day to children scattered throughout the 834 square miles of Burke County.
- This program operates through the entire summer.



Why we believe in propane:

- We are saving \$1.63 per gallon on every gallon we consume compared to diesel.
- We average 4.18 miles per gallon with propane.
- A diesel bus on the same route averages 4.63 miles per gallon.
- The driver can make up to 1.5 miles per gallon difference on either bus.



Other Benefits

- Propane buses heat up quicker.
- Maintenance cost is less.
 - New propane engine in the crate averages \$6,000.00
 - Diesel bus engines remanufactured is around \$14,000.
 - Propane parts are less expensive.
 - Gas engine mechanics can be easily trained to repair propane engines.



Superintendent and BOE

- Propane buses burn cleaner.
- Less anti-pollution devices means less maintenance.
- Grants from EPD are available to off-set costs.
- Diversification of fuel supplies.
- Using propane buses on longer routes saves money.



Propane Savings

- We have several buses that accumulate over 30,000 miles per year.
 - Propane saves us approximately \$10,000 per bus per year.
 - Propane buses will pay for themselves in about 10 years.
 - Our fleet rotation is 15 years.
 - We have only had one break-down of our 5 propane buses.



Our Goals

- Replace 2/3 of our fleet with propane or CNG.
- Install a 30,000 gallon tank on site in order to take delivery of full tanker loads.
- We hope to be able to purchase propane directly from the pipeline 60 mile away.