



EANES ISD DOES ITS HOMEWORK, SAVES BIG WITH PROPANE AUTOGAS BUSES.

**AFTER TRACKING COMPETITIVE FUEL PRICES FOR YEARS,
EANES ISD FOUND SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS WITH ITS
PROPANE AUTOGAS BUS FLEET.**

Fritz Klabunde, the director of transportation at Eanes Independent School District in Austin, Texas, is somewhat of a student himself. For years, Klabunde has done his homework on the three energy sources that power the nearly 60-vehicle school bus fleet — gasoline, diesel, and propane. He’s charted the per-gallon prices of the fuels and kept notes on each of their vehicle maintenance costs. With years of collected data, there’s one energy source that’s consistently stood out with the lowest total cost-of-ownership: propane autogas.

After scrutinizing the data, Eanes ISD transitioned 20 of its buses from diesel to propane autogas with the help of Volkswagen settlement funds. Today, 45 of the 59 buses run on propane autogas, providing the district an efficient fleet that saves thousands of dollars each year on fuel alone. With improved maintenance costs and less downtime, Eanes ISD is seeing even more savings. Not to mention, the buses are creating a cleaner and healthier environment for students every day.

**“EANES ISD HAS EXPERIENCED SHORTER DOWN TIMES
FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS OF OUR PROPANE
AUTOGAS SCHOOL BUSES COMPARED WITH THE DIESEL
BUSES IN OUR FLEET.”**

FRITZ KLABUNDE, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, EANES ISD

EQUIPMENT FLEET PROFILE

45

Propane buses make up the majority of the fleet, which also includes 12 diesel and 2 gasoline buses.

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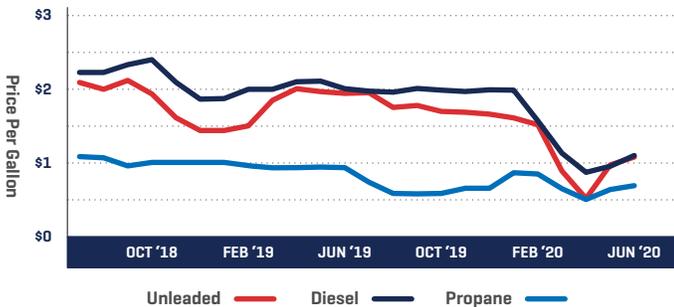
18,000-gallon tank with 2 quick-connect nozzles.



COST SAVINGS

For several years, Klabunde tracked the daily per-gallon price of gasoline, diesel, and propane autogas. It quickly became clear propane autogas wasn't just the most inexpensive fuel today, it has always been the most affordable.

In fact, Eanes ISD has saved approximately 10 percent of its total \$300,000 fuel budget by operating with propane autogas. With the addition of 20 new propane autogas buses to the fleet at the start of the 2020 school year, Eanes ISD expects to save an additional five percent on its total budget. The district also takes advantage of the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit, which amounts to an additional \$0.37 per gallon of propane in 2020.



AVAILABLE GRANT MONEY

When the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) opened applications for available Volkswagen settlement funds, Eanes ISD jumped on the opportunity to replace aging diesel buses with new propane autogas buses. TCEQ granted the district nearly \$1.1 million, which covered half the cost of its 20 new propane autogas buses.

In 2019, Eanes ISD also received a grant to cover half of the cost to upgrade its propane autogas refueling station and equipment to accommodate the larger fleet. Eanes ISD easily upgraded its fuel storage tank from a 12,000 to an 18,000 gallon tank with two quick-connect nozzles.

MAINTENANCE BENEFITS

Eanes ISD also enjoys improved maintenance benefits with its propane autogas buses. Compared with diesel, the repairs and maintenance of the propane autogas buses have been less expensive for the district. Plus, the propane autogas vehicles experience less downtime than diesel buses.

Klabunde says these maintenance benefits have been especially helpful recently, as emissions standards for diesel buses continue to tighten up, leading to more expenses in order to meet these regulations. Because propane autogas is a clean energy source, it doesn't require expensive emissions systems to achieve near-zero NOx levels.

With all the homework Klabunde has done, the numbers don't lie. Propane autogas has saved Eanes ISD thousands of dollars every year. As the district continues to expand its fleet, Klabunde expects the savings will only continue to grow.

“AS EMISSION STANDARDS FOR DIESEL BUSES TIGHTEN UP, THE ADDITIONAL ELECTRONICS NEEDED ARE ADDED EXPENSES. THAT’S A COST WE DON’T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WITH PROPANE.”

FRITZ KLABUNDE

PROPANE HIGHLIGHTS

10%

The amount of money Eanes ISD saves each year on its \$300,000 fuel budget by operating a primarily propane autogas fleet.

20 BUSES

The number of new propane autogas buses Eanes ISD was able to purchase with available VW settlement funds.

INCREASED UPTIME

Eanes ISD's propane autogas buses experience less downtime than its diesel buses.

CLEAN

The district has significantly reduced NOx emissions in its propane fleet compared with diesel, creating a cleaner environment for students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn about propane autogas vehicles and the fleets that use them, visit Propane.com/Buses.

THE PROPANE EDUCATION & RESEARCH COUNCIL was authorized by the U.S. Congress with the passage of Public Law 104-284, the Propane Education and Research Act (PERA), signed into law on October 11, 1996. The mission of the Propane Education & Research Council is to promote the safe, efficient use of odorized propane gas as a preferred energy source.

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