



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Texas Propane Vehicle Pilot Project

Project ID #ARRAVT058

Heather Ball

Railroad Commission of Texas

May 12, 2011

This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information

# Overview

The Railroad Commission is Texas' chief energy agency

## Timeline

- Start: February 1, 2010
- End: January 31, 2014
- Less than 50 percent complete

## Budget

- \$45,159,853
  - DOE share: \$12,633,080
  - Cost share: \$32,526,773

## Barriers

- Technical
- Budgetary
- Administrative

## Partners

- School districts
- Cities/counties
- Central Texas Clean Cities

TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Objectives



## Texas Propane Vehicle Pilot Project

- Deploy ~800 propane vehicles
- Install/upgrade 35 propane fueling stations
- Operate concurrent public education and training programs

## In order to:

- Reduce dependence on petroleum by ~12 million gallons
- Increase use of propane by ~15.9 million gallons
- Reduce GHG emissions by ~78,000 tons
- Educate the public about alternative fuels' benefits
- Create/retain 141 jobs

TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Approach

## Vehicle and Infrastructure Deployment

- Recruit public fleet managers to make transition to alternative fuels.
- Identify all eligible funding sources, including state and local funds and propane motor fuel tax credits, to maximize economic incentive for each entity.
- Partner with distributors of OEM and aftermarket fuel systems to create smooth ordering, installation and repair channels.
- Create detailed specifications on [BuyBoard.com](http://BuyBoard.com) to comply with public agency competitive bid requirements.



TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Approach

- Work with OEMs to create fleet loaner program to allow fleets to try out propane vehicle for a week at a time.
- Recruit test fleets through each Clean Cities organization.
- Collect driver testimonials after test week; publish on blog.
- Create press events to recognize fleet partners' accomplishments.



TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Accomplishments

Month/Year	Milestone
February 2010	Contract signed
March 2011	198 propane vehicles deployed
March 2011	30,000 gallons of petroleum displaced
March 2011	4 propane refueling stations deployed
Nov. 2009–March 2014	Clean Cities public education program up and running.
April 2010	Texas Propane Fleets social media site launched
January 2010-January 2014	Training program for refuelers, technicians and emergency responders up and running
June 2011	Evaluate public education and training plans; modify as needed
January 2012	100% of fueling stations installed
January 2012	100% of vehicles deployed

TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Technical Accomplishments

## Vehicles and infrastructure are being deployed

- Project is on schedule to deploy all the vehicles and infrastructure by January 2012.
- Partners who cannot meet this timeframe are deobligating their funds.
- Replacement fleets have been identified, and new contracts and/or amendments are issued as funds are deobligated.



TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



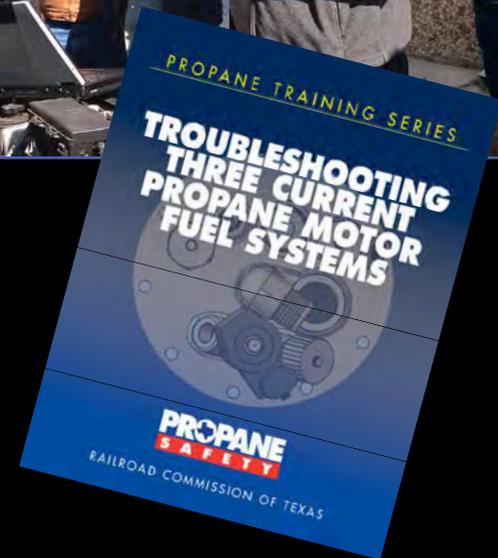
RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS



# Technical Accomplishments

## The training program is up and running

- Conducted classes for 149 propane drivers and other staff on propane vehicle refueling.
- Trained 66 emergency responders from agencies that may be called to respond to incidents involving refueling stations and/or vehicles paid through this grant.
- Trained 153 mechanics to work on propane fuel systems.



TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Technical Accomplishments

The public education program is up and running

- Grant has funded a fleet loan program through Clean Cities that lets fleets try out a propane vehicle for a week.
- Texas Propane Fleets blog provides a forum for fleets to write about their experiences.



TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Technical Accomplishments

## Expanded Outreach Through Social Media

Texas Propane Fleets is developing an online community where vehicle owners, propane autogas providers, and vehicle manufacturers

- Share their experiences about propane,
- Ask questions, and
- Learn about new vehicles that are being developed.



TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Partners

## OEMs

Regular meetings to discuss supply pipeline and new product offerings.

## Distributors and Installers

Share information on funding opportunities available for new fleets; co-host mechanics' training classes on equipment and propane systems.

## Fleet Managers

Feature in case studies; enlist for peer-to-peer education forums.

## Community Leaders

Supply background information for decisions on alternative fuels; organize press events.

TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Future Work

By January 31, 2012 (end of Program Year 2)

Evaluate public education and training programs (6/1/11); modify as needed

- Complete vehicle and infrastructure reimbursement programs (1/31/12)
- Seek additional funding for partners on waiting list
- Continue Clean Cities seminars, special events, media outreach
- Continue driver, refueler, technician and emergency responder training
- Collect data; report on time

TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# Summary

## Many propane vehicles and fueling stations deployed

- Deployed 190 school buses, pickups and other vehicles to date
- Submitted three refueling sites for reimbursement

## Program deployment will be complete by 1/31/12

- Reporting and reimbursement processes developed and operational
- Deobligation/reobligation process is working smoothly

## Public education program exceeding targets

- 31 seminars, 194 fleets, 939 fleet managers through 3/31/2011
- Events covered by more than 118 Texas media outlets
- Social Media outreach through Texas Propane Fleets blog

## Training program off to a fast start

- Trained 66 emergency responders; 149 drivers, and 153 mechanics through 3/31/2011

TEXAS PROPANE VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS