

PSC Paves the Way for Commercial Natural Gas Programs

In August, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) approved new commercial Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) and Natural Gas Vehicle Transportation (NGVT) programs for three Florida companies. These programs create opportunities for commercial customers to use natural gas vehicles. The PSC also approved a revised NGV service tariff that creates more options for compression and dispensing facilities to increase customer choices and use.



“Along with electric vehicles, natural gas vehicles are excellent transportation alternatives,” said PSC Chairman Ronald A. Brisé. “The Florida Legislature has encouraged natural gas use to reduce costs and increase use of domestic and clean-burning resources for future transportation.”

So what exactly are natural gas vehicles? Natural gas is a mixture of hydrocarbon gases, primarily methane, that unlike other fossil fuels, emits lower levels of potentially harmful byproducts into the air. Natural gas can be created into a compressed natural gas (CNG), or liquefied natural gas (LNG) to fuel cars and trucks. CNG and LNG are considered alternative fuels under the Energy Policy Act of 1992.



According to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), natural gas powers about 112,000 vehicles in the United States and roughly 14.8 million vehicles worldwide. There are three types of NGVs. Dedicated vehicles run on only on natural gas. Bi-fuel vehicles have two separate fueling systems that enable them to run on either natural gas or gasoline, and dual-fuel vehicles have fuel systems that run on natural gas and use diesel fuel for ignition assistance.



Because natural gas is a cleaner, alternative fuel, more economically and environmentally-friendly than diesel or gasoline, commercial use of natural gas vehicles in the United States is growing. In Florida, fueling stations are on the rise and utility companies are encouraging consumer interest in conservation and environmentally-friendly practices. The Commission decision is another step into making companies' natural gas pricing more competitive with conventional motor fuels.

For more information on Florida natural gas programs, visit the PSC website, www.floridapsc.com.