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City of Tucson, Pima Association of Governments and Southwest Gas unveil the city’s first compressed natural gas (CNG) haulers

At a time when fleets are scrambling to keep up with the cost of petroleum, maintenance and the rising cost of keeping vehicles on the road, the City of Tucson has made a choice to move its fleet into a new era.

As a member of Tucson Clean Cities Coalition, which is managed by Pima Association of Governments, the City of Tucson is doing its part to reduce America's dependence on petroleum by adding a new fleet of vehicles fueled by compressed natural gas.

With the purchase of 14 CNG-fueled collection trucks, the city will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 30 percent, particulates from the tailpipe by as much as 90 percent, and fuel cost by nearly a dollar a gallon.

Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, the offices of Congressmen Ron Barber and Raúl Grijalva, and officials from Pima Association of Governments and Southwest Gas participated in today's unveiling of the first CNG-powered collection truck with a ceremony at Menlo Park, 301 N. Grande Ave.

The remainder of the trucks will arrive over the summer and the city will continue the conversion over the next five years. The Environmental Services Department expects to convert 90 percent of its diesel-fueled vehicles to CNG.

“We felt it was important to meet the demands of the community as well as to operate as efficiently as possible,” said Andrew Quigley, Director of Environmental Services for the City of Tucson. “CNG helps us meet the expectations of our community and helps save dollars with lower costs for fuel, and also reduces carbon emissions. It’s a win-win for all.”

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“We are seeing trends in large diesel trucks moving to CNG as fleet managers understand the savings of reduced fuel cost and pollution,” said Tucson Clean Cities Manager Colleen Crowninshield.

To date, the Tucson area has three publicly accessible CNG stations and 10 fleets using CNG. The number of private CNG vehicles is growing daily. For more information about alternative fuels, visit the Clean Cities page at www.PAGregion.com or visit Tucson Clean Cities on Facebook.

About PAG/Clean Cities
Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. For more information, visit www.pagnet.org

Clean Cities is a voluntary program of the U.S. Department of Energy to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel, accelerate the use of alternative fuel vehicles and build a local refueling infrastructure for these vehicles.