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Roush Propane Bus = Huge School Savings

August 18, 2015 in *Fleet Order, milestones, Propane, propane autogas* by *Rich Piellisch* | *No Comments*

Back-to-School Boost as Broward Saves More Than Expected And DeKalb & Morgantown Schools Test the Clean Fuel Waters

Florida's Broward County Public Schools got back the extra money it invested in propane autogas-fueled Blue Bird buses far more quickly than had been expected, says fuel system provider Roush CleanTech.



Florida's Broward County Public Schools 'budgeted for a six-month return on investment of the initial propane engine upcharge, but succeeded in recouping that cost in three months,' says fuel system provider Roush CleanTech.



The BCPS student transportation and fleet services department fielded 98 propane autogas-fueled Blue Bird buses for the 2014-2015 school year, Roush says, and has reduced its annual operating costs by more than \$600,000.

"BCPS budgeted for a six-month return on investment of the initial propane engine upcharge, but succeeded in recouping that cost in three months," Roush says, noting that the Blue Bird Propane Vision vehicles had an incremental cost less than 3% greater than their diesel counterparts.

Fuel and Maintenance Costs Far Lower

The district paid an average of \$1.32 per gallon for propane and \$2.75 for diesel over the last year, Roush

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adds. In addition, "annual maintenance costs for the alternatively fueled buses amounted to 80% less than for their diesel buses," states the Roush release.

BCPS is the sixth largest school system in the nation, operating 1,269 school buses including the 98 fueled by propane autogas. Each travels an average of 16,500 miles per year, Roush says, transporting approximately 75,000 students.

37 More Buses on Order

Roush said further that BCPS expects to save more than \$74,000 in operating costs over the 12-year lifecycle of each propane autogas bus, equating to a 38¢ per mile savings.

BCPS has ordered 37 additional propane autogas buses for the upcoming school year. The buses for Broward are supplied by Florida Transportation Systems.

60 Million Miles

In other back-to-school news, Roush is spreading the word that the first propane autogas school bus for West Virginia has been ordered by Monongalia County Schools in Morgantown, that three Blue Bird Propane Vision buses will transport students for the DeKalb County Central United School District in Indiana.

The propane-powered Blue Bird Vision school bus has a 6.8-liter Ford V-10 engine with 6R140 transmission, "specifically designed to work in unison, creating a best-in class propane-powered bus," Roush says. More than 60 million miles have been logged.

Contact information is only available to premium subscribers. Click here to purchase a subscription.

Source: Roush CleanTech with Fleets & Fuels follow-up

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Posted in *Fleet Order, milestones, Propane, propane autogas* and tagged *BCPS, Blue, Blue Bird Bus, Broward County Public Schools, DeKalb County Central United School District, Monongalia County Schools, Roush CleanTech.*

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