



## News Release

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**BLACK HILLS ENERGY, DUBUQUE 2.0 SPONSOR  
NATURAL GAS VEHICLE WORKSHOP**

*Dubuque mayor, Iowa House Speaker, other state legislators in attendance*

DUBUQUE, Iowa, July 21, 2010 — Black Hills Energy is driving home the fact that clean, efficient natural gas is the greener alternative to gasoline and diesel for fueling everything from taxis to sanitation trucks and can help cut fuel costs as well. And the recent success of a natural gas vehicle workshop the company co-sponsored with sustainability advocate Dubuque 2.0 confirms that it's time for cities and private fleet operators to seriously consider the proven technology.

More than 50 Iowa fleet operators, clean air/clean transportation advocate-allies, local and state policy makers and NGV stakeholders met in Dubuque on July 15 for the NGV workshop. The event opened with a welcome from Dubuque Mayor Roy Buol, a sustainable energy advocate who supports Black Hills Energy's efforts to promote a Dubuque-area NGV market. Other speakers included Stephen Yborra with the national Clean Vehicle Education Foundation, and Iowa Clean Cities Coalition coordinator Brian Crowe, with the Iowa Office of Energy Independence, who conveyed available NGV-related federal and state grants.

Workshop attendees were provided a survey Black Hills Energy developed to help fleet operators assess their potential NGV deployment opportunities and needs. "One-in-five of all new transit buses on order nationwide now are natural gas powered," Black Hills Energy marketing manager Tim Hess said. "The natural gas fuel distribution infrastructure is already in place—more than 1.5 million miles of natural gas pipelines blanket the U.S., making supplies readily available for new fueling stations."

Hess was not surprised at the interest shown in natural gas as a vehicle fuel. "There are approximately 130,000 NGVs on U.S. roads today and more than 8.4 million worldwide," he said. "From both an economic and environmental standpoint, the benefits of natural gas as a vehicle fuel grow more enticing every time a vehicle fleet owner turns a key."

For more information about Black Hills Energy's NGV market development initiatives, contact Tim Hess at 316-941-1653 or [tim.hess@blackhillscorp.com](mailto:tim.hess@blackhillscorp.com).

## Natural Gas Vehicles – It's A Fact

*Information provided by NGVAmerica*

### Natural Gas is Clean

- Natural gas is **the cleanest commercially available fuel for transportation today**.
- Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs) produce 93-95 percent fewer toxins than gasoline and diesel vehicles, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 – 30 percent compared to diesel and gas vehicles.
- The natural gas fueled Civic GX produced by American Honda has been rated the “Greenest Vehicle” for five consecutive years by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.
- Converting one refuse truck from diesel to natural gas is the equivalent of taking as many as 325 cars off the road in terms of pollution reduction.

### Natural Gas is Abundant

- Domestic reserves of natural gas are estimated to be twice that of petroleum based upon current consumption—approximately 100+ years.
- For 14 of 16 years, America has added more gas to its reserves than it has produced and used.
- Worldwide, **natural gas reserves are greater than those of petroleum**.
- A 1998 U.S. Department of Energy study estimated that, worldwide, between 25 and 37 quadrillion Btu of methane is released each year into the atmosphere due to natural decomposition of organic material. In the U.S., the report states that it is feasible to capture and use about 1.25 quadrillion Btu produced from landfills, sewage and animal waste alone. This is equivalent to 6 percent of all the natural gas used in the U.S.

### Natural Gas is Affordable

- Natural gas has been 25-34 percent cheaper than diesel over the past 14 years
- Transit bus operators can expect an annual fuel cost savings of almost \$20,000 when using natural gas fuel over conventional “clean diesel” buses and more than \$11,500 when compared with diesel-electric hybrid buses.
- **The price of natural gas, on average, is more than one-third less than gasoline at the pump.**

### Natural Gas is American

- **98 percent of all the natural gas consumed in America is produced in North America.**
- There are about 1,100 NGV fueling stations in the U.S. and more than half are public.

### Natural Gas Vehicles are widely used

- More than 25 manufacturers produce 100 models of light-, medium- and heavy-duty natural gas vehicles and engines in the United States.
- In the United States, natural gas vehicles can be factory ordered from a variety of mainline manufacturers, including American Honda and Peterbilt.
- Several manufacturers—Baytech, BAF, Emission Solutions Inc. and IMPCO – also offer warranted conversion (retrofits and repowers) of many popular light-, medium- and heavy-duty vehicle models made by GM, Ford, Isuzu, Workhorse and International.
- NGVs are used in a variety of fleets, including: taxi and shuttle services; food, beverage and other delivery businesses; refuse companies; **school bus fleets**; a wide variety of private and **public work trucks such as sweepers, dump trucks and plows**; and transit buses. One-in-five (20%) of all new transit buses on order nationwide now are natural gas powered.

### **Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy**

Black Hills Energy serves 149,700 natural gas customers in 130 Iowa communities, and is a proud recipient of the U.S. EPA 2010 ENERGY STAR® Leadership in Housing Award. Black Hills Energy is part of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) — a diversified energy company with a

tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — based in Rapid City, S.D., with corporate offices in Denver and Omaha, Neb. The company serves 763,300 natural gas and electric utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company's non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity, produce natural gas, oil and coal, and market energy. Black Hills employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy. More information is available at [www.blackhillscorp.com](http://www.blackhillscorp.com).

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