



## **Policy Statement: The WPGA SUPPORTS legislation removing the training requirement and allowing for self-service dispensing of propane autogas.**

### What is Propane Autogas?

Propane, also known as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), or propane autogas, is considered an alternative fuel under the Energy Policy Act 1992. According to the Propane Education & Research Council, there are nearly 60,000 on-road propane vehicles with certified fuel systems in the United States. Many are used in fleet applications, such as school buses, shuttles, and police vehicles.

Propane vehicles are available from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) or via a conversion. Propane engines and fueling systems are also available for heavy-duty vehicles, such as step vans and school buses, including some prep-ready engines from OEMs. (Source: US Department of Energy)



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### What are the Benefits of Propane Autogas?

- **Cost Savings:** Propane autogas is often more cost-effective than traditional gasoline or diesel fuel. It can save fleet operators and individual vehicle owners a significant amount of money on fuel expenses. In 2022, Propane Autogas was \$2 below the cost of gasoline, on average.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Propane autogas is a cleaner-burning fuel compared to gasoline and diesel. It produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which can help reduce a vehicle's carbon footprint and contribute to better air quality.
- **Domestic Fuel Source:** Propane autogas is largely produced in North America, reducing dependency on foreign oil and promoting energy security.
- **Engine Longevity:** Propane autogas burns cleaner and leaves fewer deposits in the engine compared to gasoline or diesel, which can extend the lifespan of the vehicle's engine.
- **Reduced Maintenance Costs:** Propane autogas engines often require less maintenance because they run cleaner and have fewer moving parts prone to wear and tear. This can result in lower maintenance costs over the vehicle's lifetime.
- **Quiet Operation:** Propane autogas engines are generally quieter than diesel engines, which can lead to a more pleasant driving experience and reduced noise pollution.
- **Tax Incentives:** In many regions, there are tax incentives and rebates available for vehicles and fleets that use alternative fuels like propane autogas. These incentives can further reduce the total cost of ownership.

- **Proven Technology:** Propane autogas technology has been used for many years in various applications, including school buses, delivery trucks, and commercial fleets. It has a track record of reliability and safety.
- **Versatile Applications:** Propane autogas can be used in a wide range of vehicles, from passenger cars to heavy-duty trucks and buses. This versatility makes it suitable for various transportation needs.
- **Environmental Compliance:** Propane autogas vehicles often meet or exceed emissions standards, making them an attractive option for organizations looking to comply with environmental regulations.
- **Resilience to Fuel Price Fluctuations:** Propane autogas prices tend to be more stable than gasoline and diesel, which can provide stability in budget planning for fleets and businesses.
- **Reduced Carbon Footprint:** Propane autogas is a step toward reducing carbon emissions, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable transportation future.
- **Safety:** Propane autogas is stored in secure, high-integrity tanks, and the fuel has a lower flammability range compared to gasoline. Additionally, the tanks are rigorously tested for safety.

### What is Current Law?

*Wisconsin Administrative Code SPS 340.43 Dispensing to vehicle fuel tanks, recreational equipment and containers.*

*SPS 340.43(1) Public self-service prohibited. Self-service dispensing by the general public of any gas regulated by this chapter is prohibited, except trained members of the general public may fuel compressed natural gas motor vehicles through a fueling connection that complies with ANSI NGV1-2006.*

*SPS 340.43 (2) General. No person, except for the following, may dispense any gas regulated by this chapter unless the dispensing is through approved dispensing devices:*

*(a) A trained and authorized employee of a bulk storage plant, container charging plant or service station.*

*(b) A trained and authorized employee of an entity operating a commercial fleet of motor vehicles.*

### What do Current Training Requirements Include?

SPS 340.43 does not specify components to be included with training. Therefore, training varies from verbal instruction to broad courses offered through the Propane Education & Research Council.

### How Difficult is it to Dispense Propane Autogas?

Refueling with propane is similar to refueling with gasoline, and includes built-in safety mechanisms such as pressure-relief valves, shut-off valves that detect fuel line ruptures, and overfill prevention devices. *Photo Courtesy of School Transportation News*



## Talking Points

- **Parity with CNG and Gasoline:** Removing the training requirements and allowing self-service dispensing would provide parity with compressed natural gas and motor vehicle fuel, which do not have training requirements and are allowed to be dispensed by the general public.
- **Accessibility and Cost Savings:** Allowing for self-service dispensing of propane autogas makes it easier for individuals and businesses to adopt propane autogas as a fuel source for vehicles. This could potentially lead to cost savings and increased accessibility, which might encourage more people to use propane autogas.
- **Streamlined Adoption:** Training requirements can create barriers to entry for businesses and individuals looking to switch to propane autogas. Removing these requirements will streamline the adoption process and encourage more widespread use of this alternative fuel.
- **Industry Growth:** Allowing self-service dispensing of propane autogas will stimulate the growth of the propane autogas industry, leading to more job opportunities and economic benefits in the sector.

## About Wisconsin's Propane Industry:

Wisconsin's propane industry contributes nearly \$2 billion to our economy annually. Wisconsinites are among the highest users of propane in the country, with more than 250,000 Wisconsin residents using propane to fuel their homes. Propane is a popular choice for residential equipment and appliances such as stoves, water heaters and generators, as well as commercial and agricultural equipment like forklifts and grain dryers. Furthermore, propane powered vehicles are becoming more popular with many school bus fleets and law enforcement vehicles powered by propane autogas. Overall, propane is widely used in Wisconsin and especially necessary in rural regions and in many commercial applications.