

# **CLEAN CITIES CONNECTIONS**

### Latest News and Resources

FALL 2020

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## Delaware Transit Corporation Wins Competitive Federal Grant to Pilot New Service

The Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC) was named by the Federal Transit Administration as one of 25 recipients for a highly competitive Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) grant award. The awarded grant totaling \$317,692 will be used to pilot innovative software in DTC's existing fixed route and paratransit vehicles that will expand limited bus service and create more efficient transportation to jobs and healthcare in rural Sussex County.

Expected to start in 2021, the pilot will be launched in Georgetown, Delaware, a key employment and health service hub also designated as a federal Opportunity Zone. DTC will partner with Via Transportation Inc. The pilot will use software to integrate trip planning, schedules, booking and vehicle tracking into one application accessible via smartphone or phone call. The software would convert paratransit, local taxis and other mobility providers to microtransit. Microtransit allows transit trips going in the same direction to be combined on small vehicles on-demand. Key benefits of microtransit include flexibility, increased frequency, affordability and first-last mile solutions in areas and during times of day not well served by transit.

For full press release: <u>https://ridesharedelaware.org/dart-first-state-uses-solar-panel-technology-to-continue-its-energy-savings-and-clean-energy-campaign/</u>

## **Delivering Electric Supplies with Electric Power**

Over the past year, United Electric Supply in New Castle has been transitioning their OnDemand delivery vehicles to fully electric Chevrolet Bolts. The OnDemand delivery service brings electrical supplies to job sites, which saves contractors and electricians valuable time and money. Prior to purchasing the Bolts, United Electric used larger vans and trucks to deliver the supplies, but they found it was a waste of money and fuel. Tailpipe emissions from the larger vehicles was also bad for the environment. So, to save money on truck maintenance and fuel costs, the company decided to purchase electric vehicles to conduct the OnDemand deliveries.

Initially, some of the delivery drivers were a little skeptical and hesitant to use the electric vehicles. They were used to the larger, gas-powered vehicles, but they are amazed at the quick acceleration and how fun the cars

are to drive. Now, they could not be happier with the transition. Staff have even praised the company for their green approach, and customers are beginning to recognize the electric vehicles delivering electric supplies.

Thank you, United Electric Supply, for making the shift to electric vehicles, and for setting a great example for other Delaware businesses.



# SPOTLIGHT: CLEAN CITIES ACROSS THE U.S.

Each issue of the Delaware Clean Cities Connections Newsletter will feature an article or highlight from a sister Clean Cities coalition. This issue we will feature an article from the Kentucky Clean Cities (Kentucky Clean Fuels).

# Electric boilers fuel Diageo's carbon-neutral whiskey distillery dream

by Kentucky Clean Fuels - July 30, 2020

Even whiskey is going electric. Distilleries have long been difficult operations to electrify due to the large heat loads it requires to turn grain into one of humanity's oldest vices, alcohol. But Diageo's new 72,000-square-foot distillery is designed to be completely carbon-neutral. According to Diageo, it should avoid more than 117,000 metric tons of annual carbon emissions by switching to renewable electricities compared to operating using a traditional natural gas facility."This is an opportunity to build a new distillery from the ground up," said Andrew Jarrick, North American environmental sustainability manager at Diageo. "It's not every day you get that opportunity."The Kentucky facility primarily will produce Bulleit Whiskey (Diageo also makes Guinness, Smirnoff, Johnnie Walker, Tanqueray, Bailey's, Captain Morgan and others) and will be one of the largest carbon-neutral distilleries in North America, according to the company. The facility is under construction, with completion slated by mid-2021. Eventually, it will produce 10 million proof gallons of whiskey and employ about 30 full-time brewers. The distilling process has three large heat requirements: first to cook the grain into mash; then as steam to capture the ethanol in a distillation column; and finally for drying the leftover grain for alternative uses. Moving away from fossil fuels for this heat production was the first step and the first big obstacle for Diageo."The distillery industry is built on very traditional ways of thinking and relies very heavily on time-tested methodologies," Jarrick said. "We want to produce the same liquid every time. The biggest challenge was to maintain that process integrity, but also move on from traditional fossil fuels."

# Helpful Resources



**Path to Zero is a podcast hosted by Tucker Perkins, CEO of the Propane Research and Education Council**, and is focused on clean energy and the journey toward a low-carbon future. Topics include the clean energy continuum, "new urbanist" perspectives on clean energy, the challenge of a 2 centigrade change in the earth's temperature poses, the science of warnings, and cities of tomorrow, just to name a few. The podcast can be found anywhere you listen to podcasts or by listening <u>here</u>.



# South Shore Clean Cities hosts "Green Fleet Radio" each Wednesday on Lakeshore Public Radio.

The show features interviewing guests on topics pertaining to South Shore Clean Cities' mission. Listeners can stream online. "Green Fleet Radio" is made possible in part through the generous support of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Stream "Green Fleet Radio" <u>here</u>.

# **ALT FUELS CORNER - PROPANE AUTOGAS**

This quarter's alternative fuel focus is on propane autogas. In Delaware, propane autogas is most utilized by school buses, DART Paratransit shuttles, Sharp Energy employees and by Autoport who converts gas or diesel vehicles into propane burning vehicles.

Propane, also known as liquified petroleum gas (LPG) or propane autogas, is a colorless, odorless liquid that is produced as a by-product of natural gas processing and crude oil refining. LPG is stored in a pressurized tank and as the pressure is released, the gas vaporizes and turns into a liquid gas used for combustion engines. Because there is no odor, an odorant ethyl mercaptan is added to detect leaks.

There are two types of propane vehicles: bi-fuel and dedicated.

- Dedicated propane vehicles are designed to run on propane autogas only.
- Bi-fuel propane vehicles have two separate fueling systems that enable the vehicle to run on propane and gasoline.

A propane vehicle has comparable power, speed and driving range to conventionally fueled vehicles, but propane's low carbon and low oil contamination properties may result in longer engine life leading to lower maintenance costs. These properties have made conversion from conventional fuel to propane popular among fleets of light and medium duty vehicles.

According to the Propane Education & Research Council, there are nearly 200,000 on-road propane vehicles with certified fuel systems in the US. Much like natural gas, propane is a good choice for high-mileage vehicles such as buses and shuttles, medium-duty trucks and even lawnmowers.

In Delaware there are 8 public LPG stations and several privately owned stations that serve larger fleets like school buses and the paratransit shuttles. These stations are utilized by larger fleets like school buses and DART, but also private and smaller fleets that run on propane including, a water and coffee delivery service and Kent Sussex Industries.



Public propane stations in DE Source: Alternative Fuel Data Center https://afdc.energy.gov/

# **Upcoming Events in Clean Transportation**

Appalachian Clean Transportation (ACT) Forum (Virtual) - November 17 - 18, 2020 During the forum, industry leaders, transportation service providers, policymakers, mobility **Rural Action** managers and advocates will gather virtually to discuss innovative rural mobility strategies with transportation experts from around the state and region. Registration is free. For more information, click here.

#### Transforming Transportation 2021 (virtual) - February 3 -5, 2021



Across the globe, rethinking mobility is now a priority to build back better, with safer, more resilient and efficient transport systems for all. Transforming Transportation 2021 will bring together sustainable mobility world leaders from the public, private, academic and civil society spheres in a global virtual event to discuss the path forward. For more informtation, click here.

The Delaware Clean Cities Coalition is one of nearly 100 coalitions across the U.S. Delaware's coalition is housed in the Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy and is funded by the Department of Energy's Vehicle Technology Office.



For More Information on the Delaware Clean Cities Coalition or to sign-up for the newsletter, visit www.de.gov/delaware-clean-cities-coaltion