Oak Park's ongoing alternative fuels journey.





Ken Crowley Superintendent of Fleet Services

CNG B20 EV

- Oak Park is 4.5 square miles.
- Population of 52K.
- Maintain around 250 pieces of equipment.





CNG

Opened our CNG station in 2002, with grant funds covering the majority of the station and vehicle conversions.

- Peak of 24 Bi- fuel CNG vehicles.
- Cleaner burning









We have used CNG in the past when grant funding made the ROI worth the price of admission.

Pros: CNG is less expensive than gasoline, burns cleaner, increases oil life, and can be used in almost any engine. Great option for vehicles with a lot of use.

Cons: Initial upfront costs, added complexity, tank expiration/replacement costs, tanks taking up valuable space, costs for infrastructure.







ak Park

VILLAGE OF OAK PARK RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Congratulations on the official opening of your CNG station 4/22/02 From your partner at General Motors







Started use in 2007 with our new facility. We use B20 in all our equipment all year.

- Direct replacement for diesel.
- Cleaner burning than diesel.
- Average 32K gallons per year.









We've been using B20 for 17 years without issue. We have around 49 units using this fuel. Some of the engine makes are Cummins, Caterpillar, Dodge, Ford, GMC, John Deere, Kubota, Mercedes, and Navistar.

Pros: Direct replacement, no vehicle modifications required, cleaner burning, sustainable fuel source, produced in Illinois, similar in cost to diesel, sometimes less.

Cons: Legacy infrastructure must be prepped for use, moisture-free, and clean. Due to its solvent nature, equipment fuel filters must be swapped out when switching to B20. Dealing with the opinions of legacy Fleet employees can also be an issue.









Started adding frontline EVs to the Fleet in 2019 with 5 sedans. In 2024 we will have 19 EVs & 23 level 2 chargers.

- Pricing is comparable to ICE on some models.
- Almost no maintenance.
- The vehicles don't hinder the end user's day-to-day operations.









We've been using EVs for inspectors, and meter reader vehicles since 2019. We have expanded the EV fleet into our Engineering division, pool cars, Animal Control officer, and our Water Department meter tech.

Pros: Almost no maintenance. Quiet. No tailpipe emissions. Good PR.

Cons: Infrastructure needs expansion. Vehicle use requires some retraining of end users. Limited training for techs.





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Thoughts

- Cleaner air/budgetary constraints. You need to decide how to get the most bang for your buck.
- 1. It has to fit.
- 1. Do something now.







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Everything works for someone. Nothing works for everyone.

Don't get paralyzed waiting for perfection.

Do something now.

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL



