Project Profile: Happy Cab Co.

Happy Cab Company operates taxis in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska, and joined with Metropolitan Utilities District in Omaha several years ago on a daring effort to develop a market for natural gas vehicles (NGV) in the Midwest. The collaboration bore fruit with the June 2011 opening of Nebraska’s first public access compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station at I-80 Fuel in Omaha. A second public access station opened in July and the Airport Authority in Lincoln, Neb., opened a third public station in November.

Mark Mitchell, president of I-80 Fuel and Happy Cab Company, saw the potential benefits to his operation and was a key partner in kick-starting the NGV marketplace. The company provided the property for the first fueling station and committed to convert 63 cabs to run on CNG. Happy Cab also became an installer of EPA-certified vehicle conversion kits and plans to offer conversions for other fleets and private owners.

Funding

Funding to help build the stations and purchase NGV fleet vehicles and equipment was made possible through Midwest Region Alternative Fuels Project.

CNG vehicles: 63
Gallons of gasoline displaced: 75,000 / yr
Total project cost: $1.2 mil
Federal funds: $593,000