

BUG Leads the Way in Utilizing Alternative Fuels

By Craig McGuire

Brooklyn Union Gas, pursuing the quickly growing natural gas vehicle development market in the northeast, is lighting the way for area businesses and residents.

In 1990, the federal government enacted Clean Air Act amendments which identified geographical areas, including New York City, that do not meet air quality standards.

To improve air quality, federal, state and local mandates require fleet operators to begin purchasing vehicles, such as Natural Gas Vehicles (NGV), which meet strict emissions standards.

Several fleets which operate in Brooklyn have begun the transition.

Brooklyn Union's own NGV fleet, combined with the NGVs of their custom-

ers, including 28 companies, organizations and governmental agencies, exceeds 1,400 operating vehicles in New York City.

The U.S. Postal Service, New York Telephone, Creative Transportation, the U.S. General Services Administration, and United Parcel Service are some of these customers.

That the seven vehicles employed by the Department of Sanitation do not emit noxious diesel fumes, and are significantly quieter, have residents applauding, said BUG spokesman Bob Mahony.

NGV programs with the city's Department of Parks, General Services, Sanitation, and Transportation

maintaining these vehicles is currently more suitable for a fleet operation, private NGVs will soon be available to Brooklyn residents.

General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford have produced vehicles designed to run on natural gas. Models will be available at Chrysler and General Motors fleet dealerships later this year.

According to Bernard Fitzgerald, spokesman for BUG, these vehicles match the performance of gasoline driven vehicles while emitting less pollution.

According to Fitzgerald, NGVs match up in every category with gasoline-powered cars. At \$.97 per gallon, natural gas provides the equivalent miles per gallon as its \$1.27 counterpart.

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have helped give New York the largest natural gas-powered municipal fleet in the country.

Natural Gas Cars Coming Soon
While converting and

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