



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blue Water Area Transit Replaces Natural Gas Compressor

To Compress More Natural Gas at a Lower Cost

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit has replaced its oldest natural gas compressor, which was part of the original system the agency first used to produce compressed natural gas in 1996.

BWAT ranks as Michigan's largest producer of compressed natural gas and runs the state's largest fleet of alternative fuel buses. By the end of the summer, it will have four CNG refueling stations open to the public. New remote stations will open in Marine City in March, in Capac in April and in Port Huron in July. These will be in addition to the fueling station that is located at BWAT's Port Huron headquarters.

"This new compressor helps us refuel our bus fleet in less time and for about half the cost of operating the old compressor," says Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager.

The new compressor is made by ANGI Energy Systems, which is based in Janesville, Wisconsin. It can compress 1500 cubic feet per minute, which is more than three times the capacity of the original compressor.

At its Lapeer Avenue headquarters, BWAT now has three 1500 CFM compressors and six smaller 70 CFM compressors. The entire system is backed up by power generators.

"The old compressor ran on natural gas and was expensive to operate," says Dave Frasier, BWAT director of maintenance and procurement. "The new compressor runs on electricity and is much more efficient to operate."

The \$960,000 Project is supported by two federal grant programs: State of Good Repair as well as Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement.

"Anything we can do to expand our use of buses fueled by compressed natural gas will benefit our community," comments Jim Fisher, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board chairman.

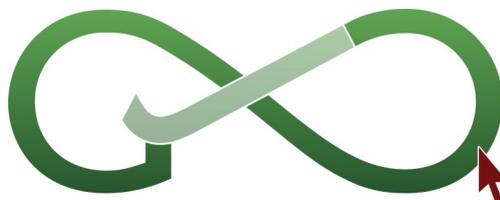
Compressed natural gas is a low-emission American-made alternative fuel that saves money, promotes a clean environment by reducing carbon emissions, and reduces our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

Blue Water Area Transit continues a proud tradition of innovation in public transit that has served Port Huron for more than a century. Port Huron was one of the nation's first communities to operate an electrified transit system in the 1880s and one of the first to operate motor coaches when they became popular in the 1930s. Following an eight-year hiatus, the current bus service began in September 1976. Since then, BWAT has carried more than 24 million riders.

BWAT has continued the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996. It now ranks as Michigan's largest producer of compressed natural gas and runs the state's largest fleet of alternative fuel buses (75 out of a fleet of 79). For more information, visit our website at bwbus.com, our blog at bwwave.com, our facebook page at facebook.com/bluewaterbus, and our twitter page at twitter.com/bluewaterbus.

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