



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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K-12 Student Outreach Program Benefits

Blue Water Area Transit Sells Retired Earth-Friendly Bus

To Sustainable Energy Program at St. Clair County Community College



SC4's NEWLY PURCHASED BUS will pull a Power Cube with solar panels and a wind turbine . (photo courtesy SC4)

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit has sold a retired compressed natural gas bus, for one dollar, to St. Clair County Community College. The bus will serve as a “classroom on wheels” for the College’s student outreach program about sustainable energy.

The retired BWAT bus is a Goshen Coach that runs on compressed natural gas, which is a low-emission American-made alternative fuel that costs less and burns cleaner than either gasoline or diesel fuel.

“We’re glad to see one of our buses helping to educate children about sustainable energy,” says Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager.

Nearly all of BWAT’s buses run on CNG, giving the agency the largest fleet of alternative fuel buses in Michigan. BWAT also ranks as the state’s largest producer of CNG.

SC4 will use their newly acquired bus to transport materials needed to present an outreach program to K-12 students. Bob Hunckler, the SC4 professor who teaches the program, estimates that it used to take eight hours to load and unload the equipment which they will now transport inside the bus and in a trailer pulled by the bus. This includes a Power Cube with solar panels and a wind turbine.

“We’ve taken out all of the passenger seats to make room for our equipment,” says Hunckler., who expects that the savings in time should allow them to entertain more requests for the program.

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BWAT can retire transit buses when they meet criteria set by the Federal Transit Administration. The Goshen coach that SC4 purchased for one dollar reached its required number of years or miles.

“Our goal is to maintain a fleet that is clean and dependable,” according to Wilson. “This involves managing our grant money so that we can replace vehicles when they qualify for retirement.” Marketable buses are listed with Michigan’s online auction site (www.mibid.bidcorp.com) after they have been retired.

“Retired CNG buses still have some life in them,” says Dave Frasier, BWAT director of procurement and maintenance. “When we used to retire our diesel buses, the only choice was to scrap them. It’s great to see this CNG bus transfer to a new owner.”

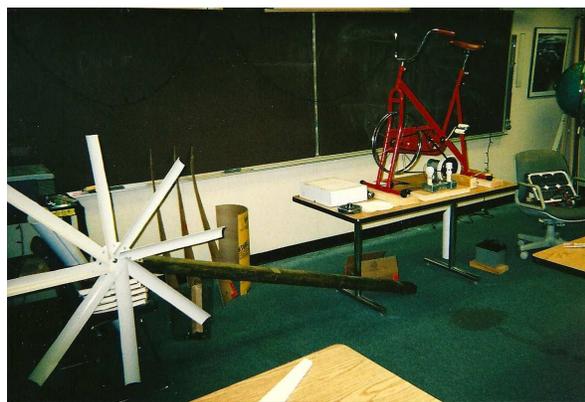
BWAT’s public CNG fueling station is at 2021 Lapeer Avenue. Certified by the State of Michigan, the station is open Monday - Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., and accepts Discover, Master Card, and VISA. The current price is \$2.05 per gasoline gallon equivalent.

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BWATC 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, BWATC has carried more than 24 million riders and continues the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996.

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SAVE GREEN RIDE BLUE



SC4 recently purchased a retired Goshen coach, much like the one pictured here, from BWAT. (photo courtesy BWAT)

SC4’s newly acquired bus will transport the equipment pictured here to present an outreach program for K-12 students. (photo courtesy SC4)



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