



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

2021 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060
810.987.7373 fax 810.987.2431 www.bwbus.com

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CONTACT: Jim Wilson, BWAT General Manager, 810.987.7373

Water Bill Cut 70%

Blue Water Area Transit's New Bus-Washing System

Saves Thousands of Dollars, Three Million Gallons of Water

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit has experienced a dramatic 70% cut in their \$10,000 quarterly water bill during the first six months of washing their buses with a new Westmatic system. The reduced bill reflects how the agency is now using less water — to the tune of three million gallons less per year.

“Savings in the winter could be less,” says Dave Frasier, BWAT director of maintenance and procurement. “Because of all the seasonal roadway contaminants, like salt, we can not recycle the water as often in the winter.”

Installed last July, the new state-of-the-art system replaces the method BWAT has used for more than 25 years. The new method includes a water filtration system and high speed air blower to provide water recycling, ozone odor elimination, a clean water rinse, and undercarriage washing. BWAT cleans an average of 70 buses each day.

“Clean buses not only present a professional, inviting appearance for our customers, but they are also easier to maintain,” says Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager. “It’s all part of our goal to provide safe, clean, economical, and dependable transportation.”



READY FOR PASSENGERS — A shiny clean BWAT bus leaves the agency’s new earth-friendly bus-washing system that’s cut 70% off their water bill while saving millions of gallons of water.

— more —

The Westmatic system was purchased for \$175,000 with a grant from the Federal Transit Administration's "State of Good Repair" program. The grant was part of a federal initiative to improve our nation's rail and bus transit systems, authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act.

"The new system contributes to our long-standing commitment to earth-friendly ways of doing business," says Jim Fisher, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission chair. "It's an added bonus, knowing that we are using American-made equipment." BWAT's Westmatic system was manufactured in Buffalo, New York.

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 and continues the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996.

BWAT is now the largest producer of compressed natural gas and runs the largest fleet of alternative fuel buses in Michigan. CNG is a low-emission American-made alternative fuel that costs less and burns cleaner than either gasoline or diesel fuel.

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