



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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40,000 Gallons Per Month

Blue Water Area Transit Upgrades System

That Produces Compressed Natural Gas

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit has upgraded its system for producing compressed natural gas. The agency produces nearly 40,000 gallons of CNG per month to fuel its buses and for its public fueling station.

BWAT recently finished upgrading its CNG production system by replacing the oldest compressor that had been part of the original system in 1996.

“Our new system allows us to compress natural gas for about half the cost and to fill our buses in less time,” says Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager.

The new compressor has more than three and a half times the capacity of the one it replaced. It can compress 1500 cubic feet per minute and is made by ANGI Energy Systems, based in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Federal and local grants have made the upgrading process possible. The project to install this last compressor was for \$960,000 that was equally provided by two U.S. Department of Transportation programs: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Clean Fuels.

“Expanding our commitment to earth-friendly methods with American-made equipment is a wonderful use of federal dollars,” according to Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee.

Located at BWAT headquarters, the new system includes nine compressors (three 1500 cfm and six 70 cfm) that are all backed up by power generators.

“We have added another layer of dependability to our system,” says Dave Frasier, BWAT director of maintenance and procurement. “Should our other compressors stop working, for example, our newest compressor alone could keep the buses running.”

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Roughly 5% of BWAT's natural gas production is used by those filling up at the public CNG fueling station at 2021 Lapeer Avenue in Port Huron. CNG is available for \$2.05 per gasoline gallon equivalent, Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. BWAT accepts Discover, Master Card, and VISA at the fueling station, which is certified by the State of Michigan.

Three more fueling stations are expected to open later this year in Marine City, Capac, and Port Huron.

Natural gas is a clean, abundant, affordable, and domestic energy alternative.

BWAT 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.

BWAT has produced 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 and our blog at bwwave.com.

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Fill'er Up with CNG!
BWAT Fueling Station
at 2021 Lapeer Avenue.
More Stations Coming
Soon to Marine City,
Capac, and Port Huron.

