

First snowplow running on natural gas unveiled in Dane County



February 18, 2014. The ongoing conversion of Dane County's fleet of vehicles from diesel to compressed natural gas (CNG) had a new chapter: the first CNG-powered snow plow in Wisconsin.

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi unveiled the new snow plow at a news conference. "The county's fleet of snow plows has gotten a real workout this winter," Parisi said in a prepared statement. "This new CNG technology holds great promise for reducing fuel and maintenance costs."

The conversion to CNG saves money for Dane County in two ways: The county produces the gas itself out of decaying garbage at the Rodefeld landfill on the southeast side of Madison, and the gas costs much less than diesel fuel.

The diesel-powered snow plows use 2,400 gallons of fuel per year. CNG costs the equivalent of \$1.25 a gallon, so the CNG snow plow should save about \$6,000 with diesel selling around \$4 a gallon.

Parisi said the county has 30 CNG vehicles now, with 13 new ones coming in 2014, including eight snow plows. The goal is to have the whole fleet of county vehicles on CNG by 2023.