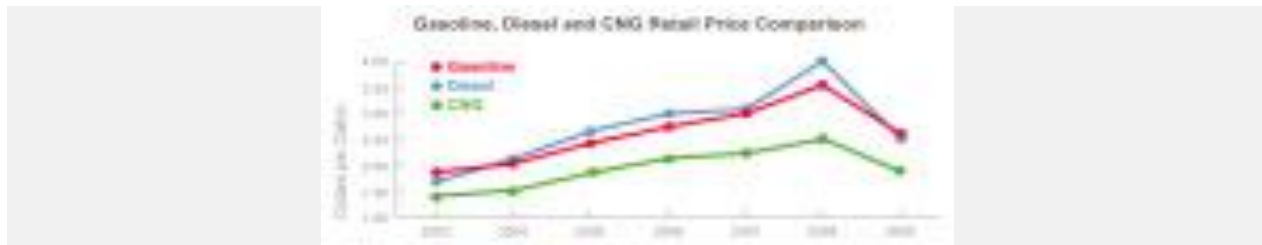


Natural gas: Coming transportation fuel



T. Boone Pickens and others have for some time been pushing vigorously for using natural gas to fuel trucks and cars. While Pickens has apparently lost a bundle investing in wind farms, he is definitely onto something here, particularly since natural gas is now even much less expensive than when he started advocating it. Information offered by DOE shows that natural gas, even in 2009, had a substantial economic advantage over gasoline in the California market.



Gasoline, Diesel and CNG Retail Price Comparison

There are two issues standing in the way of opting to buy a car fueled by natural gas. The big one is the need for a nationwide infrastructure of filling stations dispensing compressed natural gas (CNG). The other issue is the initial higher cost for the car. Dealing with that one first, CNG-fueled vehicles cost from \$ 2000 to \$ 10,000 more than gasoline- fueled cars. (Today you can buy a Honda Civic fueled by natural gas for about \$ 26,000.) The [payback period](#) for the extra investment to use natural gas as a fuel is 4-5 years, depending on your projection of future natural gas and crude prices.

The key issue is to have enough natural gas-based filling stations to make it possible to drive around the country without worrying about running out of gas (Yes, that gas). Obviously, trucks and buses can have their own fleet filling stations, certainly locally and around the country if desired. To address the problem of trucks, Pickens and other investors created the Clean Energy Fuels Corporation with a partner, the Pilot Flying J, which is allegedly the largest truck stop operator in North America. Natural gas fuel is or will be available at these truck stops. Clean Energy is also committed to build 150 natural gas truck filling stations around the country.

A trade organization (*NYTimes*, April 10th, 2012, “Natural Gas signals a ‘Manufacturing Renaissance’”) says that 40 percent of new garbage trucks and 25 percent of new transit busus can run on

natural gas. Also, Ford, GM and Chrysler have introduced “bifuel” trucks that can run on either gasoline or natural gas.

As for cars, the situation is precarious. A map showing CNG filling stations can be accessed on the web. I looked at a drive from New York City to Miami Beach and found 19 filling stations, many far apart (Example below). Driving around the NYC Metropolitan area would be less stressful.

To find CNG stations in your area, type in a City near you and hit Go!

Change location to
 Zip or City, State

The map on the right shows the stations that are in Ft Lauderdale, Florida. The number on the icon shows the current price for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Click on any of the icons to find out more information about the station such as the address, phone number, hours of operation and any other comments people have posted about the station (you can post your own comments if you know something, too!). The stations are also listed below.

Gas Diesel "Fuel Trailer"
 Ships Fully Assembled. All fuels. DOT
 Exempt nationwide \$2999.99
www.BedwinTankTrailer.com

See this on a larger map

Public Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations in Ft Lauderdale

Fuel Type	Name	Address	Current price	More info
CNG	Wise Gas	650 NW 27th Ave	2.19 (\$ per gge) updated 2012-03-09	

See a list of all public Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations in Florida.

Source: <http://chemengineeringposts.wordpress.com/2012/05/22/natural-gas-coming-transportation-fuel/>