

Michigan Green Fleets Project Summary



Between 2011 and 2012, Schwan's Home Delivery service received \$745,660 in funding from Clean Energy Coalition's Michigan Green Fleets grant program. Schwan's provided \$2,973,718 in matching funds to convert eighty (80) new Ford E450 gasoline trucks to run on liquid propane gas (LPG). Clean Energy Coalition selected Schwan's as a partner because the project would result in significant cost savings and environmental benefits. The project is a model for converting all delivery vehicles in Schwan's national fleet.

The converted vehicles currently operate in southeast Michigan. Each truck travels approximately 36,000 miles a year and has a fuel efficiency of about 6 miles per gallon of propane. Project outcomes include:

- 26% reduction in fuel costs; \$316,935 annually
- 348,947 gallons of gasoline displaced annually
- 14% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; 583 tons annually
- 58% reduction in petroleum consumption; 4,620 barrels annually



Recommendations for further action

Clean Energy Coalition applauds Schwan's accomplishments and encourages continued investment in vehicles, technologies and training that reduce the environmental impact of their fleet while lowering operating expenses. Schwan's local and national fleet management plans should include the following goals:

- **Continued monitoring of fuel use and vehicle efficiency.** Tracking vehicle performance and fuel use will allow Schwan's to maintain and improve on progress made to date.
- **Improve fuel efficiency through driver training.** Schwan's drivers play a critical role in efforts to reduce fuel consumption. Eco-driver training and accountability systems are low-cost investments with high rates of return.
- **Evaluate alternative fuels and advanced technologies.** New products and technologies offering fuel and cost savings are available every day. Careful, objective analysis is critical for making investment decisions that will pay off in the long-term.

Clean Energy Coalition's *Fuel Forward* service is designed to assist fleet managers with developing and implementing customized strategies to reduce fuel costs, emissions and petroleum use. To discuss your goals for your fleet, please contact Laura Palombi at 734-585-5720 x 22