

Natural Gas Cars

Who: Engineers

Where: The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, Md.

What: Designed and built three cars that run on natural gas instead of gasoline.

Why: Cars that don't use gasoline have very low exhaust emissions and so are better for the environment and people.

Additional facts:

Emissions from gasoline cars pollute the air and make it unhealthy.

Cars that run on natural gas produce about one-fifth the exhaust emissions of gasoline cars. They pollute the atmosphere much less and are healthier for people.

Natural gas cars don't depend on oil from foreign countries. It is estimated that America has a 200-year supply of natural gas. Until now, America hasn't made many natural gas cars. The gas tanks took up so much room there was very little trunk space. But the APL natural gas cars have a new type of storage tank that takes up less room so the cars have the same trunk space as a gasoline car.

Up to now, most natural gas cars could only go about 150 miles before refueling, and there were very few natural gas filling stations. But APL's cars can go 300 miles on a full tank, and every day there are more natural gas filling stations.

Natural gas costs less. If a fill-up with gasoline costs \$20, natural gas would be about \$12.50.

At APL, the three natural gas cars are used for company business. Drivers say they look the same and drive the same as gasoline cars.



Driver fills up car at APL's natural gas filling station.

Statements:

Statement by John Wozniak, Natural Gas Car Project Leader:

"Natural gas cars will make America a healthier, safer place to live."

Statement by Helen Worth, an APL worker:

"When I drive one of our natural gas cars, I feel like I'm helping the environment."

Research Web Sites:

APL's natural gas project

<http://www.jhuapl.edu/programs/trans/fuels.htm>

Natural gas vehicle information

<http://www.ngv.org/>

Facts on natural gas vehicles

<http://www.iangv.org/sources/qa.html>