

Friends™

B U S I N E S S S O U R C E

Everything for people@work.



Clean Fuels Ohio

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KEEPING OHIO'S CITIES CLEANER WITH FRIENDS

FINDLAY, Ohio – In coalition with the construction of a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station, Friends Business Source will convert four gasoline-run vehicles to natural gas vehicles (NGV) in 2010.

One year after the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has cleared Clean Fuels Ohio to begin its work with the Ohio Advanced Transportation Partnership (OATP) to carry out over \$29 million in alternative fuel vehicle and infrastructure projects.

“Clean Fuels Ohio came to us promoting the opportunity and our candidacy,” verifies Ken Schroeder, CEO of Friends Business Source. “CNG is a much cheaper per gallon equivalent and is much cleaner for our environment in comparison to diesel fuel. With the collaboration of other organizations throughout Ohio, now is the most opportune time to make the conversion.”

Kirk Energy Group, LLC plans to develop CNG technology in cars, trucks and other vehicle across Ohio. The company received a \$2.7 million federal grant which will include the purchase of three trucks and three cars, as well as the construction of four natural gas fueling stations in Findlay, Toledo, Bowling Green and Dayton. Currently, there are only four public fueling stations in Ohio for the service of NGV. Later this year, Kirk Energy will begin the construction of a station in Findlay that will be one hundred percent fleet friendly.

To implement the gasoline to NGV conversion at Friends, \$43,200 in federal funds, from the \$153,600 project budget, will be made available in financing. The vehicles to be converted are used for daily deliveries of furniture, janitorial, and office supply orders.

Dale Alt, Vice President of Operations for Friends, is assured that the impact will be positive for business operations, as well as for the environment. “We deliver to many companies that have programs in place to reduce their carbon foot print. When we start delivering in vehicles running on natural gas to these customers, we believe that Friends will become a stronger business partner.”

All converted vehicles will have markings promoting the DOE Clean Cities and the Clean Fuels Ohio organizations. Friends hopes to convert vehicles running long-haul routes from Findlay to Columbus and Cleveland, as well as a furniture truck and a sprinter van, in the future.

Friends Business Source is one of Ohio's largest independently owned office supply dealers. For over 45 years, Friends has been partnering with companies throughout Ohio and into southeastern Michigan to maintain the best service and supply of office related products. They specialize in office supplies, office furniture, business machines, educational services, coffee-trend supplies, promotional products and janitorial supplies. As a single source supplier, Friends truly has everything for people at work.

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