The world’s largest package delivery company, UPS, has a strong record of environmentally sound practices, including the use of alternative fuels for its delivery fleet.

Globally, UPS operates 2,022 alternative-fuel vehicles - one of the largest “green fleets” in the transportation industry.

Supporting the corporation’s green philosophy, in 2009 UPS Canada continued to expand its use of cleaner fuel alternatives for its delivery trucks across the country. After reviewing the latest technologies and environmental information, UPS Canada selected propane for 167 of its delivery trucks, for conversion in 2010.
The propane conversions are reducing carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 254 metric tonnes a year – the equivalent weight of 80 UPS trucks!

What are we doing?

Propane was a clear choice for expanding UPS Canada's alternative fuel fleet.

- Clean-burning propane is safer for the environment than traditional fuels -- non-toxic, it will not contaminate soil or water, it is not a greenhouse gas, it contains no lead and it has extremely low levels of sulphur, a contributor to acid rain.

- Propane-powered vehicles produce 27% fewer greenhouse gases than gasoline-powered ones, and lower amounts of toxic cancer-causing chemicals and air pollutants than either gasoline or diesel models.

Along with these green benefits, propane offers other strong advantages for fleet use:

- Propane prices are an average 35%-36% lower per litre than gasoline or diesel, and less likely to change rapidly (no ‘price shock’ at the pumps!).

- Propane vehicles often have lower maintenance costs, fewer scheduled service visits, longer engine life, and higher resale value than gasoline vehicles.

- New technologies give propane-powered vehicles comparable performance to gasoline or diesel models; propane is particularly effective in the stop-and-go world of delivery vehicles.

- Propane fuel tanks are 20 times more puncture-proof than gasoline tanks and propane can withstand much higher temperatures than gasoline, an important factor in the prevention of fires or explosions in the case of an accident.

UPS Canada also noted that the new liquid propane vehicles are better suited than most alternative fuel vehicles for very cold temperatures often experienced in Canada, and that propane is more readily accessible in Canada than anywhere else in the world.

What is the result?

- UPS Canada converted 139 of its delivery trucks to clean-burning propane in 2008 and 167 in 2009, bringing its alternative fuel fleet in Canada to 545. The company is now enjoying propane's double benefit – saving money while saving the environment.

- Using the latest propane technology, the converted trucks are comparable to their original fuel systems in consumption, providing a minimum range of 300 kilometres per tank. However, they cost significantly less to fuel and maintain; UPS Canada calculates that converting the vehicles to propane is 47% more cost effective than diesel.

- Most importantly, the propane conversions are reducing carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 254 metric tonnes a year – the equivalent weight of 80 UPS trucks!

www.exceptionalenergy.com