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Alpine Waste makes big move into compressed natural gas

Denver Business Journal - by Cathy Proctor

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Alpine Waste & Recycling Co. is cutting the ribbon Tuesday on a new, 26-pump, compressed natural gas refueling station in Commerce City.

The Commerce City-based company ([website](#)) has eight trucks that run on natural gas. By the end of 2011, the company expects to convert about 30 percent of its 50-vehicle fleet to run on natural gas.

Colorado's oil and gas industry has promoted using natural gas as a fuel because it's a home-grown resource that burns cleaner than petroleum-based diesel and generates local jobs, [as detailed by the Denver Business Journal in November](#).

"The more committed that we become to natural gas, the more clearly we have seen its benefits," said **John Griffith**, Alpine's president, in an announcement. "Alpine's natural gas trucks burn fuel more cleanly and more quietly, and it is a Colorado resource, meaning that we are helping the state's economy."

The Alpine CNG, at least for now, is for its trucks only.

Alpine worked with **Clean Energy Fuels Corp.**, based in Seal Beach, Calif. Alpine said it expects to save \$140,000 a year in refueling costs because natural gas costs less, on a per-gallon equivalent, than diesel, and because the trucks won't need to be closely monitored during over-night refueling operations.

CNG refueling stations typically cost about \$1 million to build.

CNG stations opened Saturday in Rifle and Grand Junction, helping to fill in a gap in the availability of the fuel for motorists traveling between Denver and Salt Lake City.