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December 2023

E-Newsletter

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and loved ones. The new year is upon us and reminds us to reflect on the important things we hold dear. It also reminds us to figure out what we can do to better ourselves and start fresh. No matter what, we must remember now is as good a time as any! Cheers to the new year!

I think it's safe to say winter is finally here in the south! Yes, we know it won't last for days on end but it's cold, crisp and the heat is on in most homes! Make sure you take the time to talk to your customers about preparing for hard freezes before it's too late. Also, make sure they understand the importance of getting their tanks filled before they are too low on propane. If a freeze happens, like in years past, and it affects road conditions, everyone should do the most they can to be prepared. In Louisiana, we are very fortunate that we get through most winters unscathed but never say never.

The National Propane Gas Foundation scholarship program application is officially open. Children of employees of NPGA member companies, state propane associations, or PERC are eligible to apply and may be pursuing any course of study at two- and four-year colleges or technical, trade, or vocational schools. Students pursuing propane-related careers especially are encouraged to apply. Learn more about this opportunity on NPGA's website including important FAQs. The deadline is February 15. Questions? Contact NPGA Scholarship Program Manager Maril Olson at molson@npga.org.

If you have any questions, contact the LPGA office at 225-763-8922.



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2024 Calendar of Events

January 19: Louisiana Clean Fuels Annual Stakeholder Meeting, BRCC Automotive Technology Center-Baton Rouge.

February 5-1:00 pm: Heat Pump Helper Personal Use Program Webinar via PERC.

February 15: NPGF Scholarship Application Period Closes.

March 2024: First Quarter Board Meeting, Date & Location TBD.

March 11-12:00 pm: Louisiana Regular Legislative Session Convenes.

April 5-7: Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo, Charlotte Convention Center-Charlotte, NC.

June 3-6:00 pm: Louisiana Regular Legislative Session Final Adjournment.

June 12-13: Clean Fuels Summit Conference & Expo, L'Auberge Casino Resort-Lake Charles.

June 24-26: APGA/LPGA Summer Convention, Hilton Hotel-Pensacola Beach, FL

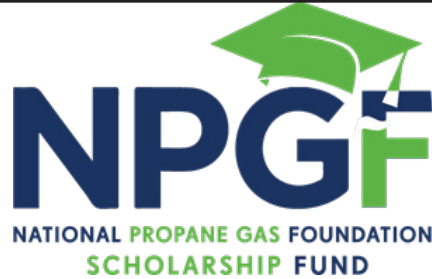
June 25: Second Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, Hilton Hotel-Pensacola Beach, FL.

Expo Registration is Open!

Registration is now OPEN for the 2024 Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo™. Expo brings together marketers and suppliers from across the United States and beyond. Don't miss this opportunity to get down to business with more than 4,000 members of the propane industry!

This year we're revving up with a new city, new days, and new prices! The 2024 Expo will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, Friday, April 5 – Sunday, April 7. We now offer Full Conference & Expo packages or Exhibit Hall Only options, for all member types. While there are price increases for regular and onsite registration, if you take advantage of Early Bird prices, you'll pay the same rates as you did in 2023. **Simply register by February 2, 2024 to save!**

Reserve your accommodations only through EventSphere, the official housing provider for the 2024 Expo™. The NPGA room block is available until March 8, 2024. Book early for the best selection!



National Propane Gas Foundation Scholarships



The National Propane Gas Foundation (NPGF) Scholarship Fund awards \$1,000 and \$2,000 scholarships to students pursuing any course of study at two- and four-year colleges or technical, trade, or vocational schools. Students pursuing propane-related careers are especially encouraged to apply. Eligible applicants are children of employees of NPGA member companies, state propane associations, or PERC.

Since 1994, the NPGF Scholarship Fund has awarded more than two million dollars in scholarships to 1400+ children of NPGA member company employees!

Key Dates

December 15, 2023

Application window opens

February 15, 2024

Application deadline

[Learn more](#) about this opportunity on NPGA's website, read about the 2023 scholarship recipients, and see a list of the generous donors who make this program possible.

[Apply here](#)

Questions?

Contact us at scholarship@npga.org

Reminder: Apply for Propane Bus Funding from the (CSB) Rebate Program

Applications for propane bus rebates under the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebate Program close on January 31, 2024 at 4pm. The program includes \$500 million dollars in funding to incentivize and accelerate the replacement of existing school buses with clean school buses, including propane buses.

Applications will be accepted from state and local governmental entities that provide bus service, including public school districts; eligible contractors; nonprofit school transportation associations; Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, or Tribally-controlled schools responsible for the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses or for providing school bus service for a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded school. School bus dealers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), school bus service providers, and private school bus fleets that meet specified criteria are eligible contractors.

The 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebates process includes SAM.gov account registration, rebate application submission, and review and selection by EPA. Selectees will then submit purchase orders to request payment and then receive payment, which is followed by new bus delivery, existing bus replacement, and project close out. The program guidance and application process differ from prior EPA school bus rebate programs. View the summary of program requirements and the detailed Program Guide.

Questions? Consult your NPGA member dashboard for an FAQ about the rebate program, a template letter to send to eligible entities, or contact NPGA Director of Regulatory Affairs Kate Gaziano at kgaziano@npga.org.



New Autogas Vehicle Inspection Grant Program Launches in January

Schools and career centers across the country can soon earn up to \$7,500 in grants to add propane-specific autogas training and equipment to their classrooms.

In January, PERC will roll out its Autogas Vehicle Inspection Grant Program to give students an elevated, hands-on learning experience using PERC's propane-specific curriculum, Propane Autogas Vehicle Inspection: Introduction for Automobile Service Technicians. The course was developed to support a one- to two-week long curriculum, about 20 hours.

The grant program is designed to build a stronger professional service network by enhancing the knowledge and skills of current and future automotive professionals while introducing students to more career opportunities after graduation.

The program will be open to any U.S. educational institution or career center (tech schools, community colleges, etc.) that is willing and able to expand their class curriculum to include propane-specific material and hands-on resources. Approved grant recipients will receive up to \$7,500 worth of funding to be applied toward:

- A new autogas-specific training board to outfit the training facility (value \$5,000).
- Travel costs for the class instructor to attend a mandatory training class on the curriculum some time in summer 2024, and
- Promotion of the new class offering to prospective students. PERC will provide recipients a standardized training board for a hands-on component that follows the curriculum, as well as digital versions of the instructor tools, student workbook, curriculum, and other resources upon acceptance into the program.

Each school is eligible for one grant. Funding is limited. "By placing propane-based curriculum in schools with trained instructors and ensuring relevant content is available via The Learning Center, learners in all stages of their career can find the propane education to fit their needs," said Elena Bennett, PERC's senior manager of industry training and education.

Marketers also are needed as program advisors for participating schools in their community. The advisor

in the grant program serves as a technical expert on autogas and engine technology. Responsibilities are to:

- Be available to advise and cooperate with the instructor when propane specific questions arise,
- Speak to the class during the instruction period about propane's role in their community, propane careers, propane's environmental impact, etc.,
- Ensure the school is teaching the curriculum.

Applications for the grant program open on Jan. 2 and run through March 29. Propane marketers are encouraged to reach out to local schools with program details and have them apply at <https://propane.com/autogasgrantprogram/>.

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Grants for propane-specific training can help drive your business partnerships.

Schools across the U.S. can now earn up to \$7,500 in grants to add propane-specific autogas training and equipment to their curriculum. PERC's new Autogas Vehicle Inspection Grant Program is designed to boost careers utilizing propane, helping to build a stronger professional service network. Marketers who understand autogas and engine technology are also encouraged to become program advisors for participating schools.



Encourage schools in your service area to apply for the Autogas Vehicle Inspection Grant Program – get all the program details here.
Applications accepted from January 2 – March 29, 2024.



Propane Education & Research Council

Apply Now! 2024 Technical School Grant Program Closes Soon

For the third year, PERC is offering up to \$10,000 to educational institutions or career centers in the United States that are willing and able to expand their HVAC or plumbing classroom lab and curriculum to include propane specific material and hands on resources. Applications for the Technical School Grant Program (TSGP) are **open until December 31, 2023**.

Each awarded school must appoint a Propane Advisor. The Advisor's role is to not only make sure the appliances and equipment are installed correctly, but also to build a relationship with the school and the next generation of propane professionals. They can offer their unique perspectives to help educate students about propane applications and the career opportunities that propane can offer.

Reach out to the local schools in your area that you think would benefit from implementing a propane specific program and encourage them to apply! Become their Propane Advisor to ensure a successful implementation

and continuation of the curriculum and equipment.

For more information on the requirements of being a Propane Advisor, explore the Participant Commitment tab on the Technical School Grant Program page. Any questions, please contact Elena Bennett at PERC at elena.bennett@propane.com.



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- FMCSA audits
- Training materials and training equipment guidance to meet FMCSA requirements

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