Louisiana
PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION

LPGA

January 2025

E-Newsletter

2025 Members

DEALER MEMBERS

AmeriGas Propane LP
Blossman Gas, Inc.
Cajun Propane
Ferrellgas
Harrell Gas, Inc.
Herring Gas Co. Inc. of LA
Jim's South Butane Propane
Lacox, Inc.
Lake Arthur Butane Co.
Lampton-Love Gas Co.
Lassalle Gas Co. Inc.
Metro Lift Propane
National Welding Supply Co.
Neill Gas Inc.
O'Nealgas
Pinnacle Propane
Reedgas Propane Co.
Sabine Country Butane Gas
Scott Petroleum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

All Propane Parts & Equipment
Bergqu, Inc.
Bevolo Gas & Electric Lights
CUI
Dealers LP Equipment
Enterprise Products
Gas Equipment Co., Inc.
Hercules Transport Inc.
L.E. Klein Co., Inc.
Martin Gas Sales
Meeder Equipment Company
Midstream Transportation Co. LLC
Mississippi Tank Company
NGL Supply
P3 Propane/GenerationNext Propane
Pros/Consumer Focus Marketing
Quality Steel
Rego Products
Tarantin Industries, Inc.

Winter is Here!

With a milder December, some may have started to wonder if winter was ever going to happen in Louisiana. Well, after last week's freezing temperatures and sneaux (that's snow for you non southern folks), we can all confirm that winter is definitely here!

In a historical weather event, much of central and south Louisiana, along with many other southern states, received several inches of snow that stayed and shut down the roads for a few days. As someone who got to witness it firsthand, it was truly a magical time for many in our city and state to enjoy time with our families for a few days. The world literally stopped, and time slowed down for just a bit.

On Monday, January 27, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) issued a Regional Emergency Declaration extending until February 15 the previous (January 10) declaration for forty-three states and D.C. The waiver is in response to the severe winter storms, extreme low temperatures, and high fuel demand the country is facing.

This extended declaration comes after continued meetings and communications with FMCSA executive leadership. NPGA thanks our hardworking membership for the invaluable input and information that we gathered. NPGA was able to share the data with federal officials in advocating that they issue this declaration, including over 50 reports to PLAN.

The Emergency Declaration provides emergency relief from hours of service requirements for drivers providing direct assistance supporting emergency relief efforts transporting heating fuel, including propane into the affected states. The declaration is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the end of the emergency (as defined in 49 CFR § 390.5T) or until 11:59 P.M. (ET), February 15, 2025, whichever is sooner. Questions? Contact Benjamin Nussdorf, General Counsel, Vice President Regulatory & Industry Affairs, at bnussdorf@npga.org or Kate Gaziano, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Associate General Counsel, at kgaziano@npga.org.

As always, if you have any questions or need any information regarding the association, please contact the LPGA office at 225-763-8922 or email our Executive Director Randy Hayden at randy@ccilouisiana.com.

Targa Resources
Terravest Industries

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Baker Texaco
Bayou Outdoor Supercenter
Best Stop #3
Best Stop #19
Bronco Stop
Canal Discount Mart Inc.
Cenla RV Center
Chris' Specialty Foods
Da Bait Shop LLC
Dean Food Mart
Depot II, Inc.
Doiron's Landing, LLC
Earl's Cajun Market LLC
Fontaine Lumber Co, Inc.
Fremin's Food & Furniture
Fuel Express Mart
Golson Enyerprises LLC
Guidry's Food Store Inc.
HRM Inc./Maxi Mart
K & G on the Geaux
Kornbread Korner
LA 88 Discount Food Mart
Lagneaux's Country Store
Land-O-Pines Family Campground
Livonia Lumber & Farm Supplies
Macro Companies Inc.
Nash Express
Paul's Grocery of Eva, LLC
Paul's Meat Market & Grocery LLC
Petals Inc.
Petro Plus
Philip Food Mart, LLC
Popingo's Convenience Stores LLC
Raceway 728
Railside Feed & Supply LLC
Riche's Y-Not Stop
River's Fresh Market
RP Custom Trailers & Service
Rockery Ace Hardware
Safe & Sound Storage
Sagona's Hardware & Sporting Goods
Savanne Mini Mart
Southend Country Mart Inc.
Speedy Mac's
Sunshine III LLC
The Fruit Stand, Inc.
The Robberson Thib's
Tickfaw Pit Stop
Vidrine & Vidrine LLC
Warm Thoughts Communications
Whitehall Mall LLC
Wilderness Acres
Xtreme Hardware

2025 Calendar of Events

February 15, 2025: NPGF Scholarship Applications Deadline.

March 2025: First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, Date and Location TBD.

April 4-6, 2025: Southeastern Propane Expo, Charlotte Convention Center-North Carolina.

June 8-10, 2025: NPGA Propane Days, Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill.

June 29-July 1, 2025: APGA-LPGA Annual Summer Convention, Perdido Beach Resort-Orange Beach, Alabama.

June 30, 2025: Second Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, Perdido Beach Resort-Orange Beach, AL.

September 2025: Third Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, Date and Location TBD.

December 2025: Fourth Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, Date and Location TBD.

Expo Registration is Open!

Registration is open for the 2025 NPGA Southeastern & International Propane Expo™! The propane industry's premiere annual event, Expo brings together thousands of marketers and suppliers from across the United States and beyond for education and networking.

This year we're back in Charlotte, North Carolina at the Charlotte Convention Center, Friday, April 4 – Sunday, April 6. NPGA now offers Full Conference & Expo registration packages or Exhibit Hall Only options for all member types. Please note that Exhibit Hall Only does not include the Welcome Reception on Friday. Check out the entire Schedule at a Glance to see what Expo has in store!

Register by January 24, 2025 to take advantage of our lowest Early Bird prices.

Book your accommodations only through EventSphere, the official housing provider for the 2025 Expo. EventSphere's "PassKey" technology lets you search hotel availability, compare rates, and reserve in one convenient location. Once booked, you can quickly and efficiently manage your reservation online.

Click or call 1-866-446-3551 (Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm EST). The NPGA room block is available until March 7, 2025. Book early for the best selection!

California Eases Generator Emission Standards Due to Wildfires

Southern California has recently been devasted by wildfires that have impacted people and property. The fires have caused utility customers to lose power, leaving Californians in the dark. California has state-specific emission guidelines for portable generators rated at or below 19 kilowatts in order for them to be sold in the state. However, due to ongoing power outages, the Air Resources Board (ARB) announced that it will "exercise maximum discretion with regard to the sale and use of new generators less than 19 kW in size by temporarily allowing – through June 30, 2025 – the import, distribution, sale, and offer for sale of U.S. EPA certified generators."

Colin Sueyres, President & CEO of the Western Propane Gas Association (WPGA), has long been promoting the use of propane-powered generators in the Golden State. "The propane industry has always known that we are the best fuel to serve any need in any space at any time," said Sueyres. "We are proud that our industry can assist residents across the entire state, including those victims of the Los Angeles fires, by providing safe, clean, reliable electricity during their time of need."

As a generator fuel, propane is second to none. It's clean burning attributes and low carbon content mean that propane can reduce emissions of both criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gases. Furthermore, unlike conventional generator fuels such as gasoline, propane does not degrade or expire. This indefinite shelf life means that propane can be relied upon to properly perform when it is needed most.

For more information on the numerous benefits of using propane to power residential and commercial generators, visit the Generators section on PERC's website. For more information, contact NPGA's Director of State Affairs, Jacob Peterson, at jpeterson@npga.org.

NPGF
NATIONAL PROPANE GAS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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 1700+ children of NPGA member company employees!

Key Dates

December 15, 2024
Application window opens

February 15, 2025
Application deadline

Learn more about this opportunity on NPGA's website, read about past scholarship recipients, and see a list of the generous donors who make this program possible.

Apply here

Questions?
Contact us at scholarship@npga.org

Commercial CHP

Combined heat and power units, also known as CHPs, are designed to generate electricity and capture the heat that would otherwise be wasted. This captured thermal energy can be used for space heating, domestic hot water, and industrial processes.

Combined heat and power is regarded by the EPA, DOE, and EIA as one of the most affordable, efficient, reliable, and cleanest power generation sources available. Because the ability to generate electricity and hot water in a single process significantly lowers emissions, reduces fuel consumption, and provides much needed grid relief.

With onsite power generation, less fuel is required to produce more useful energy and has the added benefit of avoiding transmission and distribution losses.

The increased efficiency also leads to environmental advantages. For most of the United States, propane driven CHP unites operated at a significantly lower carbon intensity when compared to electric source generation.

Combined heat and power systems offer economic benefits as well. Savings accrue when increasing efficiency, and by using propane, businesses are shielded from electricity cost increases.

CHPs are the definition of resilient. This is especially important in the commercial sector. The ability to stay operational during disruptions in power is vital, because when things get bad, propane driven CHP systems will continue to operate.

While CHPs can be installed in just about any application, there are target areas where they can be the most beneficial. These target areas include businesses that have high demands for hot water, areas that have inconsistent, limited, or expensive electrical power, and areas that are prone to natural disasters, cold climates, and remote locations. Typically, the most common building type for CHP installations are healthcare, education, hospitality, and many other commercial applications.

CHP systems bring your commercial customers the power they need while harnessing the heat to make their businesses run better. Help your commercial customers reach their power potential and add resiliency.

Visit propane.com to learn more about CHPs and the newly introduced Alternative Technology Demonstration and Research Program sponsored by PERC.

January's Safety Tips of the Week from PERC

•Week 1 (Jan. 6th) – Using PPE: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) plays an important role in ensuring your safety when handling propane. If you are unsure of what PPE to use or how to use it, ask your Supervisor.

•Week 2 (Jan. 13th) – Using and Maintaining Fire Extinguishers: Fire extinguishers must be available at all facilities and on all vehicles. They are vital for fighting small fires and for creating escape routes. It is important that effected employees understand how to maintain and use fire extinguishers, in the event of a safety-related issue.

•Week 3 (Jan. 20th) – Basic Fire Prevention Rules and Procedures: Never turn on or off any electrical switch in the area of a propane discharge. If power must be turned off to avoid a fire, turn it off from the circuit breaker in another location not affected by the discharge.

•Week 4 (Jan. 27th) – Personal Risk Assessment: To ensure the safety of you and those around you, it is essential that you perform a personal risk assessment before starting any task. This will help you determine what precautions you need to take and prevent possible accidents or injuries.

Transforming Commercial Facilities with Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Systems

More than 4,400 facilities across the U.S. already depend on CHP systems to efficiently produce electricity while capturing and utilizing the heat for their operations. These systems deliver cost-effective, environmentally friendly energy that is reliable, even during grid outages. Now, through PERC's Alternative Technology Demonstration & Research Program, facilities looking to maximize their energy potential can earn compensation for adopting CHP systems in exchange for sharing real-world performance data with PERC.

CHP TRAINING MODULE AT THE LEARNING CENTER

Get an in-depth look at CHP technology and discover how building strategic partnerships with the right people and organizations can help you identify and connect with potential CHP customers.

Technology Innovations in Radiant Home Heating

Residential builders and designers seek to improve energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and comfort with in-floor hydronic radiant heating. Typically, propane-powered in-floor radiant heating is installed in kitchens, bathrooms, and home offices when building new or during a remodel, but radiant heating is increasingly being installed in walls and ceilings as well. When combined with a propane condensing boiler, these radiant heating systems can be one of the most efficient and comfortable sources of heat for a home, as radiant heat emits comfortable, evenly distributed, consistent heat.

Propane boilers can serve double duty as both a domestic hot water and home heating system, making them versatile and a convenient way to save space. A combi-boiler is a high-efficiency gas-fired dual-purpose piece of equipment that provides an unlimited supply of hot water and hydronic space heating for a large area. The single wall-mounted unit uses less floor space than two separate systems. In addition, the system utilizes propane at an extremely high efficiency because the flue gas is condensed. And, the tankless water heater is not continually heating a reservoir of hot water, further reducing energy consumption.

Propane seamlessly replaces fuel oil, so a hybrid combi-boiler in-floor hydronic system can also be used to supplement geothermal heat pumps, which lack capacity to satisfy heating loads in extremely cold temperatures. Whether it delivers thermal energy via in-floor heating or forced air, these types of systems lower geothermal costs and provide greater comfort, efficiency, and a lower electrical rate.

Client Considerations

Radiant heating systems provide long-term energy savings but can be more expensive with up-front costs when compared to furnace installation. Be prepared to educate your clients about the bigger sustainability and comfort picture to provide a greater understanding of long-term sustainability and energy savings versus lower installation costs and higher operating costs.

Radiant heating offers an energy efficient heat source with a very efficient delivery system that allows for zoning so heat can be delivered where it's needed. Forced-air systems can create temperature fluctuations of 3 to 5 degrees between the floor and ceiling, while radiant in-floor heating produces uniform warmth from the floor up with no temperature differences found between the floor and ceiling.

Water also delivers heat more efficiently than air. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a given volume of water absorbs 3,500 times more heat than the same volume of air, so a 3/4-inch-diameter flexible tube can deliver the same amount of heat as a 14-by-8-inch rigid metal duct when both systems operate under typical conditions. Certain floor tiles can also help to further retain heat.

Unlike forced-air systems that circulate dust and other allergens or produce dry indoor air, a radiant heating system minimizes the circulation of allergens, creating a healthier indoor environment. This could be very important for those suffering from allergies or respiratory issues. Propane boilers also operate quietly, providing warmth without the noise of loud fans or blowers. In addition, propane can be used to fuel water heaters, gas cooking ranges, fireplaces, snow melt systems, pool heaters, and standby generators.

An Optimized Air-to-Water Heat Pump

A new radiant home heating product is coming to market: an electric air-to-water heat pump that integrates with traditional residential propane or gas boilers. The heat pump with boiler backup ensures homes remain warm even in the coldest climates and automatically switches between the heat pump and boiler based on outdoor temperatures to maximize energy efficiency and comfort. The heat pump operates during milder temperatures to improve efficiency and reduce carbon emissions, while seamlessly switching to the boiler as the always-ready backup heating source on the coldest days. Most systems switch over around 30DF (+/- 10DF).

Elliott Willey, Director of Product Management & Climate Conscious at Weil-McLain says, "The biggest improvement over a traditional hydronic system is the overall system efficiency and resulting decarbonization. You can now achieve a step-level improvement in total system efficiency (sCOP far exceeding 1.0) for the first time." An electric air-to-water heat pump supports decarbonization by reducing gas consumption and emissions, and as part of the dual-fuel solution, the system helps improve equipment life expectancy and energy savings in all climates. This hybrid solution is up to five times more efficient than traditional boilers,

providing significant energy savings and reducing environmental impact.

In addition, the heat pump operates with an eco-friendly R32 refrigerant. Willey notes, "We have designed the product with ease-of-installation in mind. Our heat pump uses state-of-the-art R32 refrigerant and is a 'split system' design that does not require freeze protection, ensuring hassle-free maintenance and long-lasting performance. Operating as dual fuel and positioning the boiler as a backup extends both the life expectancy of both appliances."

The full hybrid system can be installed together, which will have a greater up-front cost, but will save on total labor costs for the complete installation. Or, it can be installed in phases if a boiler stops working. A heat pump-ready boiler and the indoor heat pump unit are installed immediately to restore heat, followed by adding the outdoor heat pump later during the warmer months. Alternatively, a heat-pump-ready boiler may be able to be retrofitted into this system. Willey says of the flexible installation, "We emphasize minimal 'near-boiler' piping changes allowing you to install the hybrid solution all-at-once, via a phased approach (boiler first, heat pump later), or a retrofit upgrade (add heat pump to existing boilers)." He does caution: "To ensure the comfort, efficiency, and durability benefits of the hybrid system, the application must be properly sized. Weil-McLain has created the ECO Calc Application Sizing Tool, an industry-first tool to guarantee the correct sizing incorporating heat load, heat pump capacity, heat emitter capacity, DHW consideration, localized weather 'bin' data, localized utility rates, and rebates and tax credits."

The company is targeting the boiler installed base that is predominantly in the Northeast followed by the Midwest regions and are prioritizing active rebate programs at the state and utility levels, incentivizing decarbonization solutions for homeowners.

Radiant Home Heating: Comfortable and Sustainable Heat

As you've learned, there are many benefits of radiant home heating fueled by propane: Energy efficient heat source; Allows for zoning; to deliver heat where needed; Provides uniform warmth; Efficient heat delivery via water; Minimizes dust and allergens; Quiet operation; Propane can fuel numerous appliances.

Learn more about building with propane.