

Natural Gas Industry and Clean Cities Showcase Grand Finale of Coast-to-Coast NGV Road Rally



The Grand Finale of the #NGVARoadRally took place on Freedom Plaza in Washington, DC on June 16th. The CNG trucks, autos and buses that traveled from California to Washington, DC, or joined the rally along the way, were greeted at the Pennsylvania Avenue finish line with a checkered flag held by Chris Shorter, Director of the DC Department of Public Works, and a host of other dignitaries.

The main objective of the event was to demonstrate the feasibility of making a 4,825 mile transcontinental journey in natural gas vehicles without concern for either their reliability or their fueling.

At Freedom Plaza, the vehicles were displayed along Pennsylvania Avenue and a stage was constructed to accommodate the formal program that was moderated by GWRCCC Executive Director, Ira Dorfman. Speakers included Mark Smith, Vehicle Technologies Deployment Manager – National Clean Cities Program, US Department of Energy; Dr. Kathryn Clay, Interim Executive Director of NGV America; Director Chris Shorter; Melissa Adams, Chief Corporate Social Responsibility Officer, Washington Gas; Ashley Duplechien, Marketing Specialist, Trillium CNG; and David Schryver, Executive Vice President, American Public Gas Association.

In his address, Ira Dorfman noted that natural gas vehicles are now mainstream technology that has become part of the fabric of the DC community. 461 WMATA buses ply the street of Washington, DC powered by compressed natural gas; all 64 of Arlington, VA Transit buses operate on natural gas; 102 of Montgomery County, MD's Ride-On buses are powered by CNG; the District of Columbia government operates 169 natural gas sweepers, dump trucks and parking enforcement vehicles; 122 private refuse



haulers in Montgomery County, MD use CNG trucks too; Washington Gas operates 221 natural gas trucks and cars and is working to introduce renewable natural gas at its fueling stations.

A highlight of the program was a leadership award presented to Director Chris Shorter by NGV America's Kathryn Clay for his achievements in reaching the District of Columbia's sustainability goals and in accelerating the deployment of alternative fuel vehicles.

Special thanks to the program sponsors – the District of Columbia's Department of Public Works; NGV America; Washington Gas; Trillium CNG; the American Gas Association; and the American Public Gas Association.