

THE ALTERNATIVE FUEL PRICE REPORT



This is the premiere issue of what the Clean Cities Program envisions as a monthly newsletter keeping you up to date on the price of alternative fuels in the U.S. and their relation to gasoline and diesel prices. This issue discusses prices that were gathered during the week of April 10, 2000.

Gasoline and Diesel Prices

Gasoline averaged \$1.516 per gallon nationwide during the week of April 10, 2000. This represents a drop of \$0.023 per gallon from the previous month (March 2000), as illustrated in the table to the right. Prices for the various regions of the country are also illustrated in this table. (A map of the regions is shown at the bottom of this page.) During the week of April 10, prices ranged from a low of \$1.439 in the Midwest to a high of \$1.752 on the West Coast. Between March 6 and April 10, gasoline prices fell slightly in the middle of the country, while on the coasts prices rose slightly. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.

Gasoline Price Trends

	Week of 3-6-00	Week of 4-10-00	Change in Price
New England	\$1.538	\$1.556	\$0.018
Central Atlantic	\$1.532	\$1.554	\$0.022
Lower Atlantic	\$1.497	\$1.479	(\$0.018)
Midwest	\$1.555	\$1.439	(\$0.116)
Gulf Coast	\$1.490	\$1.479	(\$0.011)
Rocky Mountain	\$1.495	\$1.576	\$0.081
West Coast	\$1.629	\$1.752	\$0.123
Nationwide Average	\$1.539	\$1.516	(\$0.023)

Diesel fuel averaged \$1.419 per gallon nationwide during the week of April 10, 2000. This represents a drop of \$0.062 per gallon from the previous month. Prices for the various regions of the country are also illustrated in this table. During the week of April 10, diesel prices ranged from a low of \$1.371 on the Gulf Coast to a high of \$1.514 in the Central Atlantic region. Between March 6 and April 10, prices for diesel fell in each region of the country. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.

Diesel Price Trends

	Week of 3-6-00	Week of 4-10-00	Change in Price
New England	\$1.609	\$1.480	(\$0.129)
Central Atlantic	\$1.601	\$1.514	(\$0.087)
Lower Atlantic	\$1.462	\$1.381	(\$0.081)
Midwest	\$1.484	\$1.440	(\$0.044)
Gulf Coast	\$1.434	\$1.371	(\$0.063)
Rocky Mountain	\$1.465	\$1.452	(\$0.013)
West Coast	\$1.565	\$1.482	(\$0.083)
Nationwide Average	\$1.490	\$1.428	(\$0.062)



Natural Gas (CNG) Prices

Natural gas (CNG) averaged \$0.89 per gasoline-gallon-equivalent (retail pump price) during the week of April 10, 2000. Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. CNG prices range from a low of \$0.79 per GGE in the Lower Atlantic region to a high of \$1.10 per GGE on the West Coast. Prices for CNG were collected from 20 locations across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the Rocky Mountain region.) As this is the first issue of this newsletter, no historical prices for CNG for vehicles are available, but future issues will track the price trends month-to-month.

CNG Price Trends

	Week of 3-6-00	Week of 4-10-00	Change in Price
New England	-	\$1.00	-
Central Atlantic	-	\$0.93	-
Lower Atlantic	-	\$0.79	-
Midwest	-	\$0.80	-
Gulf Coast	-	\$0.92	-
Rocky Mountain	-	No Info	-
West Coast	-	\$1.10	-
Nationwide Average	-	\$0.89	-

Propane Prices

Propane for vehicles averaged \$1.17 per gallon (retail pump price) during the week of April 10, 2000. This translates to about \$1.62 per gasoline gallon equivalent. Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. Propane prices range from a low of \$1.10 per gallon (\$1.52 per GGE) on the Gulf Coast to a high of \$1.24 per gallon (\$1.74 per GGE) in the Central Atlantic region. Prices for propane were collected from 18 locations across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the Rocky Mountain region.) As this is the first issue of this newsletter, no historical prices for propane for vehicles are available, but future issues will track the price trends month-to-month.

Propane Price Trends

	Week of 3-6-00	Week of 4-10-00	Change in Price
New England	-	\$1.17	-
Central Atlantic	-	\$1.24	-
Lower Atlantic	-	\$1.16	-
Midwest	-	\$1.19	-
Gulf Coast	-	\$1.10	-
Rocky Mountain	-	No Info	-
West Coast	-	\$1.14	-
Nationwide Average	-	\$1.17	-

Electricity Prices

Electricity prices in our survey averaged \$0.07 per kilowatt-hour during the week of April 10, 2000. Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. Electricity prices range from a low of \$0.05 per kilowatt-hour in the Midwest to a high of \$0.09 per kilowatt-hour in the Central Atlantic region. Prices for electricity were collected from 6 locations across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the Rocky Mountain, New England, Gulf Coast, and West Coast regions.) As this is the first issue of this newsletter, no historical prices for electricity for vehicles are available, but future issues will track the price trends month-to-month.

Electricity Price Trends

	Week of 3-6-00	Week of 4-10-00	Change in Price
New England	-	No Info	-
Central Atlantic	-	\$0.09	-
Lower Atlantic	-	\$0.08	-
Midwest	-	\$0.05	-
Gulf Coast	-	No Info	-
Rocky Mountain	-	No Info	-
West Coast	-	No Info	-
Nationwide Average	-	\$0.07	-

One method for comparing electricity to conventional fuels is to calculate the fuel cost per year for sample vehicles. The table to the right illustrates three sample electric vehicles; the Ford Ranger, the Chevrolet S10, and the GM EV1. Fuel costs per year were calculated based upon EPA-published fuel economy ratings for gasoline vehicles (in MPG) and for electric vehicles (in kilowatt-hours per mile). Each vehicle was assumed to travel 12,000 miles per year, and fuel costs were taken from the above averages for gasoline (\$1.52) and electricity (\$0.07). The gasoline counterpart to the GM EV1 was the Chevrolet Cavalier, a subcompact that could serve the same fleet purpose as the subcompact EV1.

Annual Fuel Cost Comparison

	Electric Vehicle	Gasoline Vehicle
Ford Ranger	\$340	\$960
Chevrolet S10	\$370	\$960
GM EV1	\$230	\$720

Ethanol (E85) Prices

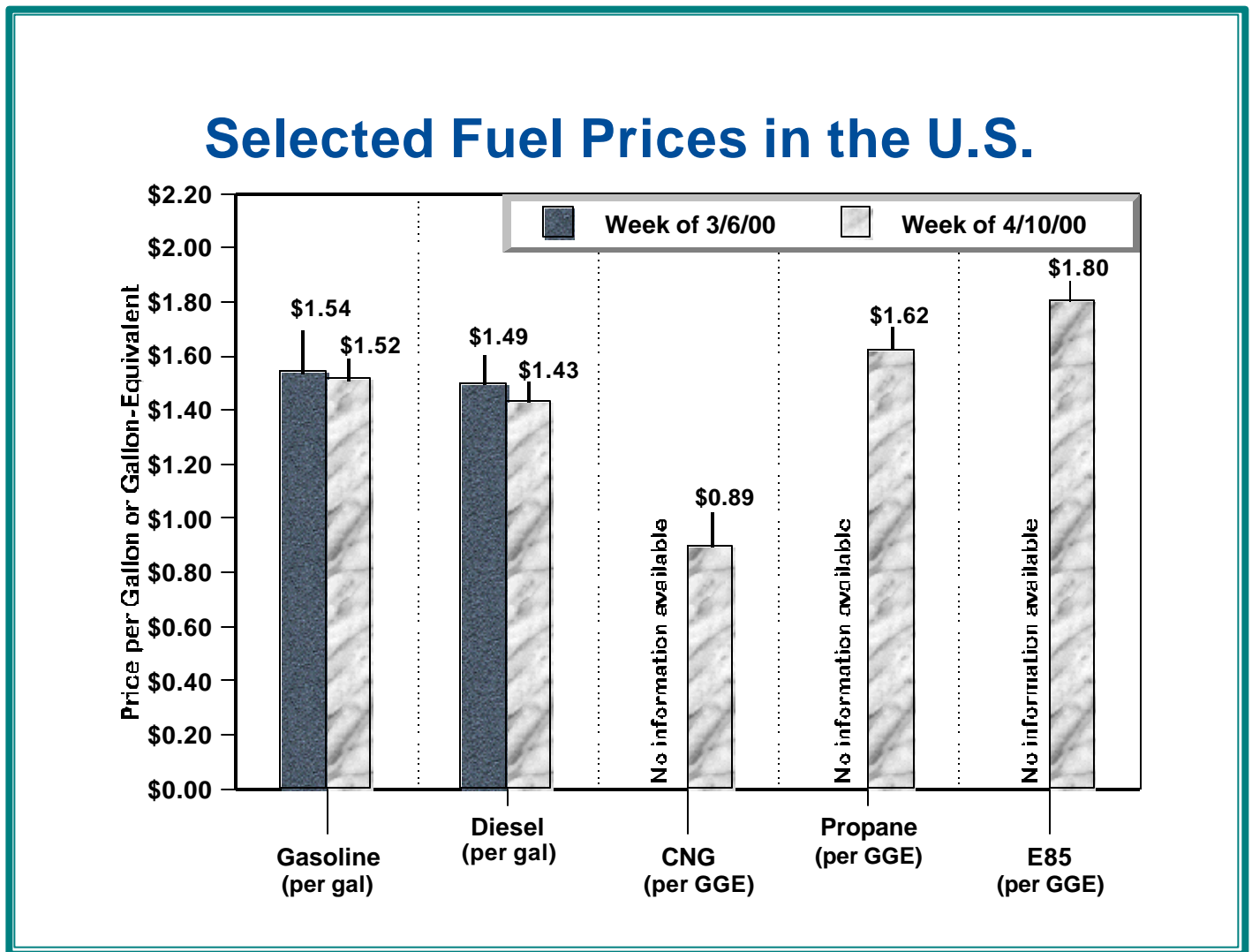
For the week of April 10, 2000, E85 prices were obtained from the Midwest for this survey. The average price from the eight locations surveyed was \$1.44 per gallon, or \$1.80 per gasoline-gallon equivalent.¹ As this is the first issue of this newsletter, no historical prices for E85 for vehicles are available, but future issues will track the price trends month-to-month.

Ethanol Price Trends

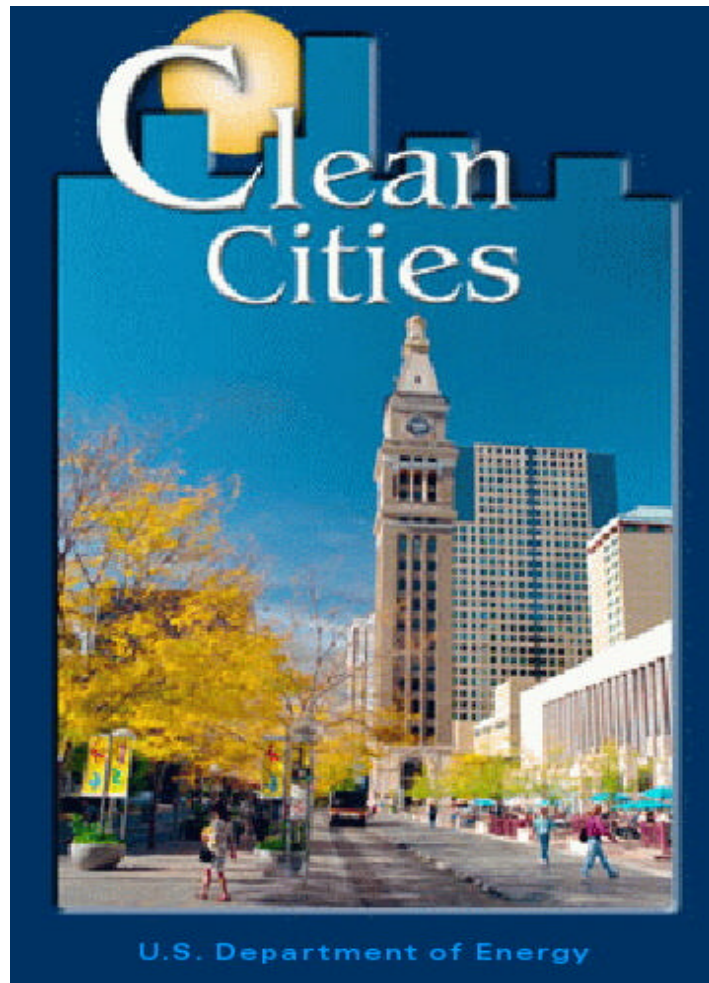
	Week of 3-6-00	Week of 4-10-00	Change in Price
New England	-	No Info	-
Central Atlantic	-	No Info	-
Lower Atlantic	-	No Info	-
Midwest	-	\$1.44	-
Gulf Coast	-	No Info	-
Rocky Mountain	-	No Info	-
West Coast	-	No Info	-
Nationwide Average	-	\$1.44	-

Summary

During the week of April 10, 2000, gasoline and diesel were generally dropping in price from the levels of the previous month. On a gasoline-equivalent basis, CNG was less expensive than gasoline or diesel nationwide, but propane and E85 were expensive than gasoline or diesel nationwide. The graph on the following page illustrates the relative prices of gasoline, diesel, CNG, propane, and E85.



¹ Includes a 10% decrease in energy use per mile for E85 relative to gasoline.



Do you have fuel prices you wish to share for inclusion in the next newsletter? To do so, contact:

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