

# THE ALTERNATIVE FUEL PRICE REPORT



This is the second issue of the Clean Cities Alternative Fuel Price Report, a quarterly 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 October 9, 2000, with comparisons to the prices in the previous Price Report for the week of April 10, 2000.

## Gasoline and Diesel Prices

Gasoline averaged \$1.541 per gallon nationwide during the week of October 9, 2000. This represents an increase of \$0.025 per gallon from the previous Price Report (April 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 October 9, prices ranged from a low of \$1.465 in the Gulf Coast to a high of \$1.816 on the West Coast. Between April 10 and October 9, gasoline prices rose slightly in all regions except the Gulf Coast. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.

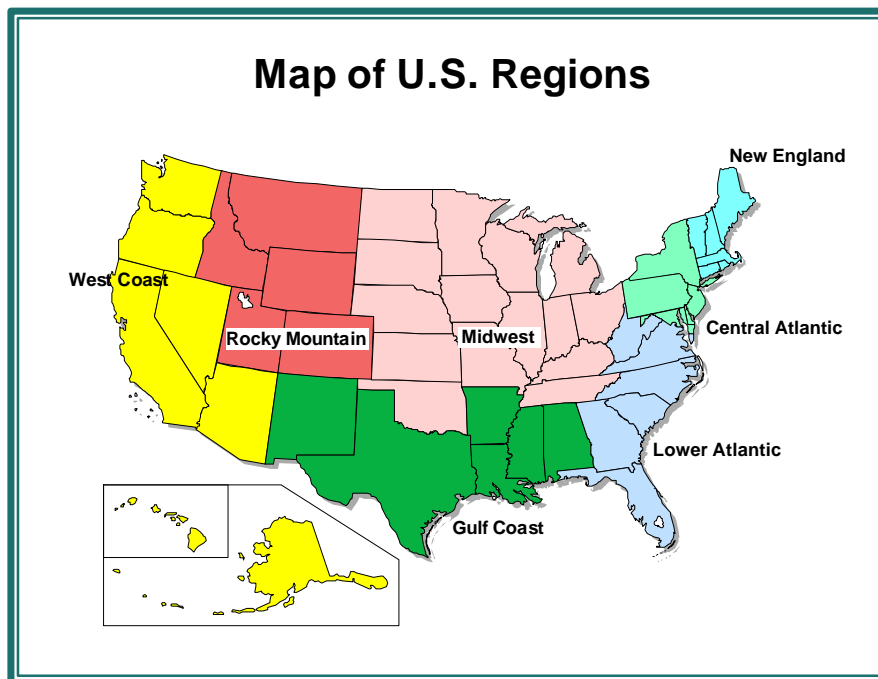
### Gasoline Price Trends

	Week of 4-10-00	Week of 10-9-00	Change in Price
New England	\$1.556	\$1.628	\$0.072
Central Atlantic	\$1.554	\$1.596	\$0.042
Lower Atlantic	\$1.479	\$1.481	\$0.002
Midwest	\$1.439	\$1.466	\$0.027
Gulf Coast	\$1.479	\$1.465	(\$0.014)
Rocky Mountain	\$1.576	\$1.639	\$0.063
West Coast	\$1.752	\$1.816	\$0.064
Nationwide Average	\$1.516	\$1.541	\$0.025

Diesel fuel averaged \$1.614 per gallon nationwide during the week of October 9, 2000. This represents an increase of \$0.186 per gallon from the previous Price Report (April 2000). Prices for the various regions of the country are also illustrated in this table. During the week of October 9, diesel prices ranged from a low of \$1.560 in the Lower Atlantic region to a high of \$1.843 on the West Coast. Between April 10 and October 9, prices for diesel rose significantly in each region of the country. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.

### Diesel Price Trends

	Week of 4-10-00	Week of 10-9-00	Change in Price
New England	\$1.480	\$1.678	\$0.198
Central Atlantic	\$1.514	\$1.665	\$0.151
Lower Atlantic	\$1.381	\$1.560	\$0.179
Midwest	\$1.440	\$1.572	\$0.132
Gulf Coast	\$1.371	\$1.551	\$0.180
Rocky Mountain	\$1.452	\$1.743	\$0.291
West Coast	\$1.482	\$1.843	\$0.361
Nationwide Average	\$1.428	\$1.614	\$0.186



## Natural Gas (CNG) Prices

Natural gas (CNG) averaged \$1.02 per gasoline-gallon-equivalent (retail pump price) during the week of October 9, 2000. Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. CNG prices range from a low of \$0.73 per GGE in the Rocky Mountain region to a high of \$1.36 per GGE in the Central Atlantic region. Prices for CNG were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the Lower Atlantic region.) Average prices for CNG increased by \$0.13 per GGE between April 10 and October 9, with increases ranging from a low of \$0.09 per GGE in the Midwest to a high of \$0.43 in the Central Atlantic region.

## CNG Price Trends

	Week of 4-10-00	Week of 10-9-00	Change in Price
New England	\$1.00	\$1.14	\$0.14
Central Atlantic	\$0.93	\$1.36	\$0.43
Lower Atlantic	\$0.79	No Info	-
Midwest	\$0.80	\$0.89	\$0.09
Gulf Coast	\$0.92	\$1.24	\$0.32
Rocky Mountain	No Info	\$0.73	-
West Coast	\$1.10	\$1.19	\$0.09
Nationwide Average	\$0.89	\$1.02	\$0.13

## Propane Prices

Propane for vehicles averaged \$1.27 per gallon (retail pump price) during the week of October 9, 2000. This translates to about \$1.76 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 \$0.99 per gallon (\$1.37 per GGE) in New England to a high of \$1.34 per gallon (\$1.85 per GGE) in the Midwest. Prices for propane were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the Central Atlantic, Lower Atlantic, Rocky Mountain, or West Coast regions.) Average prices for propane increased by \$0.10 per gallon (\$0.14 per GGE) between April 10 and October 9, with increases of as high as \$0.15 per gallon (\$0.21 per GGE) in the Midwest. The New England region saw a decline in propane prices of \$0.18 per gallon (\$0.25 per GGE) during this time period.

## Propane Price Trends

	Week of 4-10-00	Week of 10-9-00	Change in Price
New England	\$1.17	\$0.99	(\$0.18)
Central Atlantic	\$1.24	No Info	-
Lower Atlantic	\$1.16	No Info	-
Midwest	\$1.19	\$1.34	\$0.15
Gulf Coast	\$1.10	\$1.14	\$0.04
Rocky Mountain	No Info	No Info	-
West Coast	\$1.14	No Info	-
Nationwide Average	\$1.17	\$1.27	\$0.10

## Electricity Prices

Electricity prices in our survey averaged \$0.07 per kilowatt-hour during the week of October 9, 2000. Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. Prices for electricity were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (Prices were only reported from areas in the Midwest and Gulf Coast regions.) Based on the information received, no significant changes in electricity prices have occurred on a nationwide basis.

## Electricity Price Trends

	Week of 4-10-00	Week of 10-9-00	Change in Price
New England	No Info	No Info	-
Central Atlantic	\$0.09	No Info	-
Lower Atlantic	\$0.08	No Info	-
Midwest	\$0.05	\$0.07	\$0.02
Gulf Coast	No Info	\$0.07	-
Rocky Mountain	No Info	No Info	-
West Coast	No Info	No Info	-
Nationwide Average	\$0.07	\$0.07	\$0.00

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 (\$1.54) 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	\$980
Chevrolet S10	\$370	\$980
GM EV1	\$230	\$730

Ethanol (E85) Prices

For the week of October 9, 2000, E85 prices were obtained from the Midwest and Gulf Coast for this survey. The average price from the locations surveyed was \$1.52 per gallon, or \$1.90 per gasoline-gallon equivalent.<sup>1</sup> This price represents an increase of \$0.08 per gallon between April 10 and October 9.

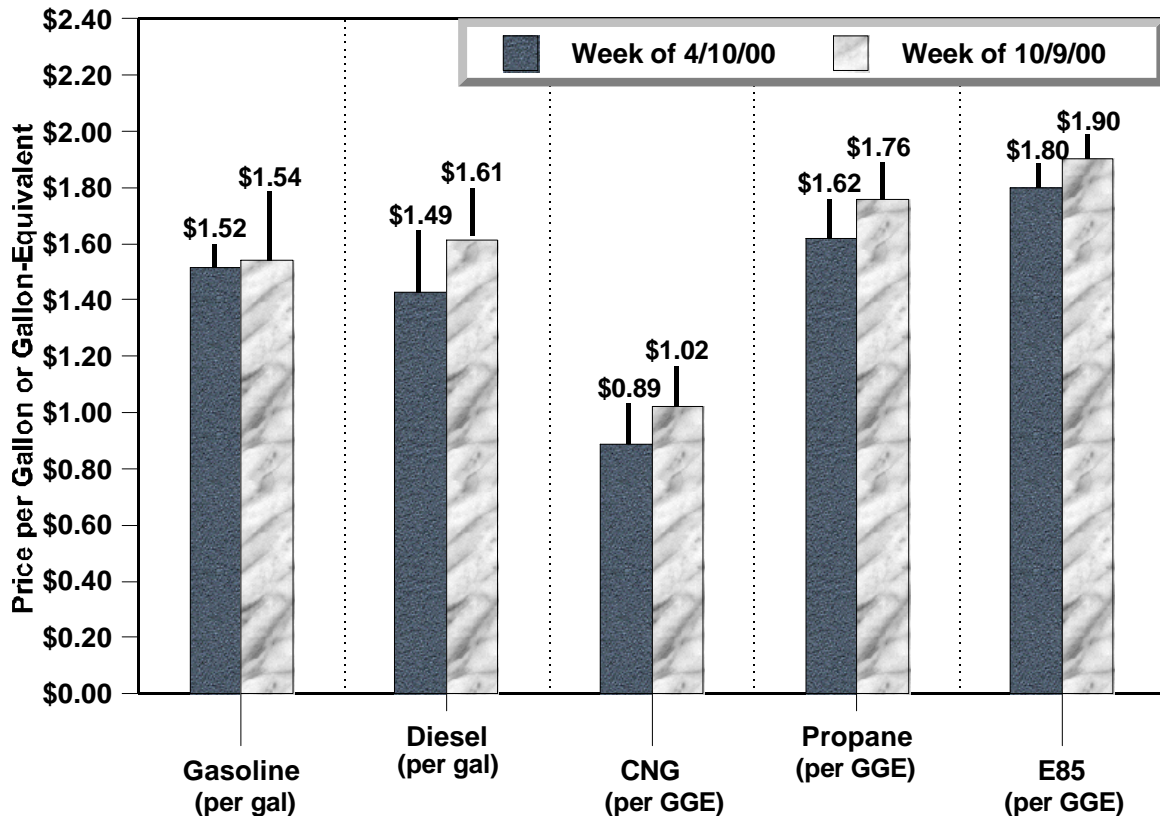
Summary

Ethanol Price Trends

	Week of 4-10-00	Week of 10-9-00	Change in Price
New England	No Info	No Info	-
Central Atlantic	No Info	No Info	-
Lower Atlantic	No Info	No Info	-
Midwest	\$1.44	\$1.52	\$0.08
Gulf Coast	No Info	\$1.55	-
Rocky Mountain	No Info	No Info	-
West Coast	No Info	No Info	-
Nationwide Average	\$1.44	\$1.52	\$0.08

During the week of October 9, 2000, gasoline and diesel prices were higher than they had been during the week of April 10 (the time period of the previous Price Report). On a gasoline-equivalent basis, CNG was less expensive than gasoline or diesel nationwide, but propane and E85 were more expensive than gasoline or diesel nationwide. The graph below illustrates the relative prices of gasoline, diesel, CNG, propane, and E85.

## Selected Fuel Prices in the U.S.



<sup>1</sup> 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:

Mike Laughlin  
QSS Group, Inc.  
4500 Forbes Boulevard, Suite 200  
Lanham, MD 20706  
Phone: (301) 429-4583  
FAX: (301) 731-1384  
E-mail: [michael.laughlin@qssgroupinc.com](mailto:michael.laughlin@qssgroupinc.com)

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