

# THE ALTERNATIVE FUEL PRICE REPORT



This is the sixth 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 from Clean Cities coordinators and stakeholders during the weeks of April 15 and April 22, 2002, with comparisons to the prices in the previous Price Report, which were collected in February, 2002.

## Gasoline and Diesel Prices

Regular grade gasoline averaged \$1.404 per gallon nationwide during the week of April 15, 2002. This represents an increase of \$0.297 per gallon from the previous Price Report (February 2002), 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 15, prices ranged from a low of \$1.345 in the Gulf Coast region to a high of \$1.542 on the West Coast. The price in the West Coast region rose most sharply since February, 2002.

### Gasoline Price Trends

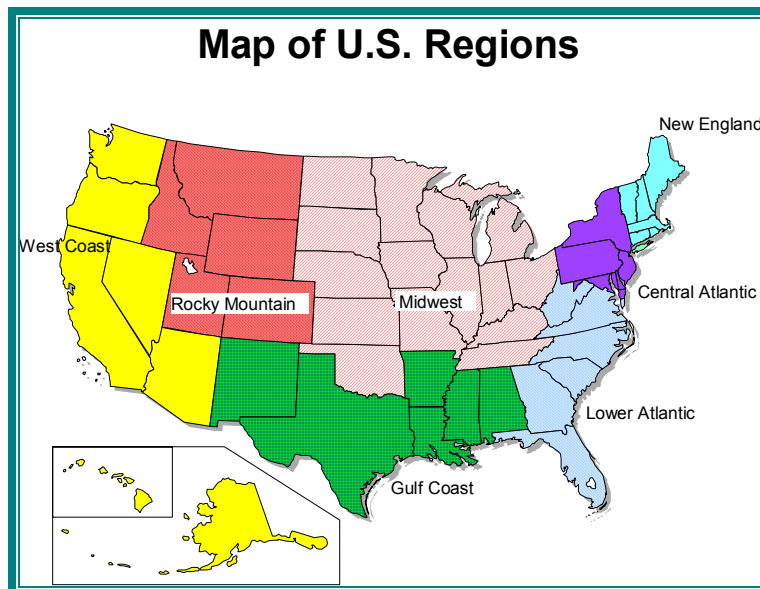
	Week of 2-11-02	Week of 4-15-02	Change in Price
New England	\$1.149	\$1.409	\$0.260
Central Atlantic	\$1.131	\$1.407	\$0.276
Lower Atlantic	\$1.048	\$1.358	\$0.310
Midwest	\$1.085	\$1.379	\$0.294
Gulf Coast	\$1.045	\$1.345	\$0.300
Rocky Mountain	\$1.104	\$1.390	\$0.286
West Coast	\$1.228	\$1.542	\$0.314
Nationwide Average	\$1.107	\$1.404	\$0.297

Diesel fuel averaged \$1.320 per gallon nationwide during the week of April 15, 2002. This represents an increase of \$0.167 per gallon from the previous Price Report (February 2002). Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the table to the right. During the week of April 15, diesel prices ranged from a low of \$1.278 in the Gulf Coast and Lower Atlantic regions to a high of \$1.405 in the Central Atlantic and West Coast regions. Between February and April, 2002, prices for diesel rose in each region of the country.

### Diesel Price Trends

	Week of 2-11-02	Week of 4-15-02	Change in Price
New England	\$1.285	\$1.387	\$0.102
Central Atlantic	\$1.267	\$1.405	\$0.138
Lower Atlantic	\$1.131	\$1.278	\$0.147
Midwest	\$1.128	\$1.309	\$0.181
Gulf Coast	\$1.122	\$1.278	\$0.156
Rocky Mountain	\$1.132	\$1.357	\$0.225
West Coast	\$1.232	\$1.405	\$0.173
Nationwide Average	\$1.153	\$1.320	\$0.167

Gasoline and diesel prices shown are retail prices; they include federal, state, and local taxes. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.



## Natural Gas (CNG) Prices

Average natural gas (CNG) retail pump prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. Regional average CNG prices ranged from a low of \$0.88 per GGE in the Gulf Coast region to a high of \$1.32 per GGE in the West Coast region during the week of April 15, 2002. Prices for CNG were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators, DOE Regional Office contacts, and fuel providers on a voluntary basis.

**CNG Price Trends**

	Week of 2-11-02	Week of 4-15-02	Change in Price	Number of Respondents for 4-15-02	Approx. No. of Stations Represented
New England	\$1.43	\$1.21	(\$0.22)	3	4
Central Atlantic	\$1.37	\$1.10	(\$0.27)	3	4
Lower Atlantic	No Info	\$1.07	-	2	2
Midwest	\$1.09	\$1.05	(\$0.04)	4	7
Gulf Coast	No Info	\$0.88	-	1	1
Rocky Mountain	\$1.00	\$0.95	(\$0.05)	3	5
West Coast	No Info	\$1.32	-	7	37

## Propane Prices

Propane retail pump prices in the various regions of the country during the week of April 15, 2002 are illustrated in the accompanying table. Regional average propane prices ranged from a low of \$1.11 per gallon (\$1.49 per GGE) in the Rocky Mountain region to a high of \$1.76 per gallon (\$2.37 per GGE) in the West Coast region. Prices for propane were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators, DOE Regional Office contacts, and fuel providers on a voluntary basis. (No prices were reported from the New England region.)

**Propane Price Trends**

	Week of 2-11-02	Week of 4-15-02	Change in Price	Number of Respondents for 4-15-02	Approx. No. of Stations Represented
New England	No Info	No Info	-	0	0
Central Atlantic	\$1.32	\$1.32	\$0.00	2	2
Lower Atlantic	No Info	\$1.60	-	2	3
Midwest	\$1.13	\$1.45	\$0.32	1	1
Gulf Coast	No Info	\$1.18	-	2	2
Rocky Mountain	\$1.21	\$1.11	(\$0.10)	3	7
West Coast	No Info	\$1.76	-	3	4

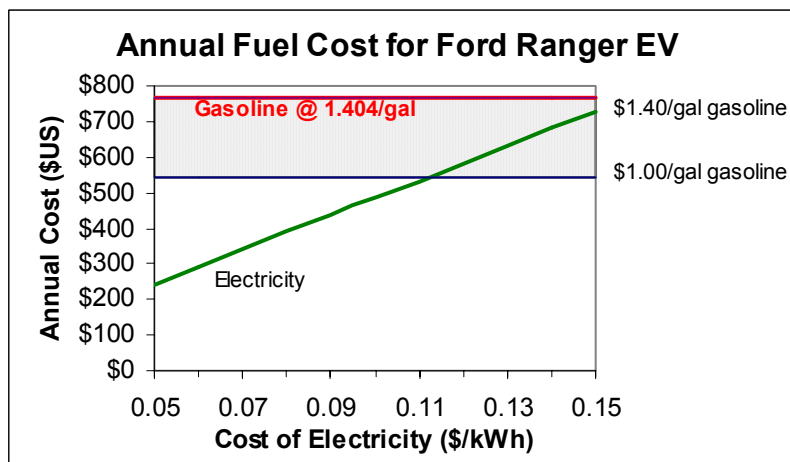
## Electricity Prices

It is difficult to estimate regional fuel costs of electric vehicles with any precision because of the complexity of electricity pricing structures. However, one method for comparing electricity to conventional fuels is to calculate the fuel cost per year for sample vehicles. The table below illustrates three sample electric vehicles; the Ford Ranger, the Toyota Rav4, and the Nissan Altra<sup>1</sup>. Fuel costs per year were calculated based upon the 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. Fuel costs for electric vehicles were calculated from a range of prices, as shown below. The national average price of gasoline (\$1.404 per gallon) was used to calculate the annual fuel cost for gasoline vehicles. The gasoline counterpart to the Nissan Altra was the Nissan Altima, a midsize car that could serve the same fleet purpose as the midsize electric Altra.

**Annual Fuel Cost Comparison**

	Electric Vehicle (5¢/kWh)	Electric Vehicle (7.5¢/kWh)	Electric Vehicle (10¢/kWh)	Electric Vehicle (12.5¢/kWh)	Gasoline Vehicle
Ford Ranger	\$240	\$360	\$490	\$610	\$770
Toyota Rav4	\$180	\$270	\$360	\$450	\$650
Nissan Altra	\$170	\$250	\$330	\$410	\$670

<sup>1</sup> The 2002 Ford Ranger EV is compared to a 2002 Ford Ranger 2WD with 4 cylinders, 4-valve dual overhead cam, 2.3 liters, and automatic transmission. The 2002 Toyota Rav4 EV is compared to a 2002 Toyota Rav4 2WD with 4 cylinders, 2 liters, and automatic transmission. The 2000 Nissan Altra is compared to the 2002 Nissan Altima with 4 cylinders, 2.5 liters, and automatic transmission. Fuel economy data was not available for a 2002 Nissan Altra.



The graph to the left shows the annual fuel cost of an electric Ford Ranger over a range of electricity prices from 5¢ to 15¢ per kilowatt-hour. At the national average gasoline price of \$1.404 per gallon, the fuel cost of an electric Ranger is less than that of its conventional counterpart unless the electricity price is over 15¢ per kilowatt-hour. If gasoline costs \$1.00 per gallon, the electric vehicle will not have a lower fuel cost than its conventional counterpart unless the electricity price is under 11¢ per kilowatt-hour.

### Ethanol (E85) Prices

For the week of April 15, 2002, E85 prices were obtained from the Central Atlantic, Lower Atlantic, Midwest, and Rocky Mountains regions. Regional average prices range from a low of \$1.29 per gallon (\$1.61 per GGE) in the Lower Atlantic region, to a high of \$1.49 per gallon (\$1.86 per GGE) in the Central Atlantic region.<sup>2</sup> Prices for E85 were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators, DOE Regional Office contacts, and fuel providers on a voluntary basis.

### Ethanol Price Trends

	Week of 2-11-02	Week of 4-15-02	Change in Price	Number of Respondents for 4-15-02	Approx. No. of Stations Represented
New England	No Info	No Info	-	0	0
Central Atlantic	\$1.48	\$1.49	\$0.01	1	1
Lower Atlantic	\$1.23	\$1.29	\$0.06	1	1
Midwest	\$1.09	\$1.37	\$0.28	1	6
Gulf Coast	No Info	No Info	-	0	0
Rocky Mountain	\$1.33	\$1.44	\$0.11	2	5
West Coast	No Info	No Info	-	0	0

### Biodiesel (B20) Prices

Biodiesel prices for the week of April 15, 2002, are shown in the table to the right. The prices shown represent B20, a fuel composed of conventional diesel (80%) and biodiesel (20%). Regional average prices ranged from \$1.06 per gallon in the Lower Atlantic region to \$1.66 per gallon on the West Coast. Prices for biodiesel were collected from across the country by Clean Cities

### Biodiesel Price Trends

	Week of 2-11-02	Week of 4-15-02	Change in Price	Number of Respondents for 4-15-02	Approx. No. of Stations Represented
New England	\$1.77	No Info	-	0	0
Central Atlantic	No Info	No Info	-	0	0
Lower Atlantic	\$1.06	\$1.06	\$0.00	1	1
Midwest	\$1.27	\$1.25	(\$0.02)	2	2
Gulf Coast	\$1.40	No Info	-	0	0
Rocky Mountain	\$1.29	\$1.40	\$0.11	1	1
West Coast	\$1.40	\$1.66	\$0.26	1	1

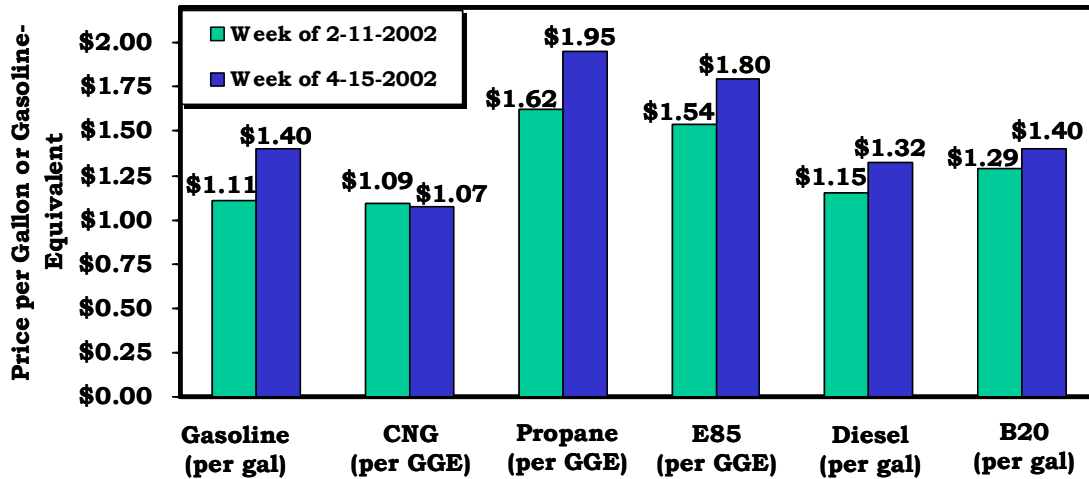
Coordinators, DOE Regional Office contacts, and fuel providers on a voluntary basis. (No prices were reported from areas in the New England, Central Atlantic, or Gulf Coast regions.)

<sup>2</sup> Includes a 10% decrease in energy use per mile for E85 relative to gasoline.

## Summary

During the week of April 15, 2002, gasoline and diesel prices were higher across the country than they had been during the February, 2002 (the time period of the previous Price Report). The price of CNG decreased in all reporting regions. Propane prices decreased in at least one region and increased in at least one region. The graph below illustrates the relative prices of gasoline, diesel, CNG, propane, E85, and biodiesel.<sup>3</sup>

## Selected Fuel Prices in the U.S.



<sup>3</sup> Gasoline and diesel prices in the graph are national averages; CNG, propane, E85, and B20 prices are median values.



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

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