

# Partner Case Study: Piedmont Natural Gas



## FACTFILE:

Piedmont Natural Gas

### Industry:

Natural gas

### Location:

Charlotte, NC  
Mecklenburg County

### Statistics:

- 600 employees
- 10 percent reduction in ground level ozone due to use of alternative fuels

### Reasons for joining *Clean Air Works!*

- To enhance fuel economy for fleet with formalized anti-idling policy
- To reduce creation of VOCs

### Challenges Overcome:

- Changing the driving habits of employees such as idling while doing paperwork, allowing cars to “heat up” in the winter and “cool down” in the summer and using drive-thru windows.
- Scheduling issues that arose when changing operations to the afternoon

### Business Benefits:

- Less money spent on fuel
- Increased productivity

### Results:

- Due to its anti-idling policy, PNG reduced emissions during 1,000 daily trips
- With PNG’s compressed work week, employees work fewer days a week, keeping them off the road during peak traffic hours and one day a week entirely
- Piedmont Natural Gas reported benefits from being seen as a concerned corporate citizen

### Facility Contact:

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## Program Summary: 2006

Piedmont Natural Gas's (PNG) *Clean Air Works!* program focused mainly on implementing operational practices. As part of its CAW Partnership, the company decided to formalize its anti-idling policy to enhance fuel economy for its fleet. By eliminating idling during service or distribution calls, PNG has been able to reduce emissions during approximately 1,000 trips per day.

The PNG fleet pumps approximately 12,500 gallons of gasoline a month (150,000 gallons per year). Since the creation of ground level ozone occurs during the morning and mid-afternoon hours, PNG decided that delaying refueling to the afternoon could help to reduce the creation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). PNG also uses alternative fuels whenever possible in its fleet; this action has effected a 10 percent reduction in ground level ozone. In August, the company decided to implement an afternoon fueling policy and educate employees on the importance of fueling their cars with gasoline in the afternoons.

Also in August, PNG switched its paint booth use to the afternoon; delayed its emergency generator firing to the afternoon; and began delaying lawn maintenance. In addition, PNG reduced pipeline heater usage where appropriate, reducing emissions of Nitrogen Oxides.

In 2007, Piedmont Natural Gas plans to replace heavy duty Charlotte District, Indian Trail Vehicles with 2007 - Tier II vehicles, which pollute less. Tier II vehicles are diesel fueled vehicles that have On Board Diagnostics (OBD) and additional air pollution controls.

In addition to operational programs, its corporate offices recently located to a new office building in the SouthPark area, which makes it more conducive for employees to walk to lunch, and therefore reduce midday automobile trips. In addition, Piedmont Natural Gas allows employees to compress their work week. This benefit allows an employee to work fewer days per week, but longer days each day they are at work. The net effect is that employees not only avoid peak traffic times each day – by arriving earlier and leaving later – but they also avoid traffic entirely one day each week.

PNG was awarded the Spotlight Award at the Clean Air Challenge Awards in October.



***“Our employees recognize that Piedmont Natural Gas is an environmentally friendly company and is doing what is best for the environment. We were thrilled to be recognized for these efforts by winning the Spotlight Award at the Clean Air Challenge Awards.”***

**Matt Kanés**  
Environmental Affairs



*Clean Air Works!* is a project of the Regional Air Quality Board, a regional entity that brings together businesses, elected officials, and public staff from cities and counties throughout the Charlotte Region to work collaboratively on projects to improve air quality. The project is funded by Mecklenburg County Government and federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds (“CMAQ”) awarded throughout the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization. For more information, visit [cleanairworks.org](http://cleanairworks.org).