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Alternate fuels highlighted at VSU

0 Valdosta Daily Times

Story

6-26-15

Print Font Size:

Posted: Friday, June 26, 2015 5:45 am

by Joe Adgie joe.adgie@gafnews.com



Joe Adgie | The Valdosta Daily Times

Alternate fuels highlighted at VSU

A demonstration of electric vehicle fueling outside the Health Sciences and Business Administration building at Valdosta State Thursday, as part of the 5th Annual Alternative Fuel Vehicle Roadshow.

VALDOSTA — Electric, natural gas and propane-powered vehicles and the associated technology were featured at Valdosta State University Thursday.

The event, part of the 5th Annual Alternative Fuel Vehicle Roadshow, was hosted by Tim Echols, commissioner of the Georgia Public Service Commission.

In addition, a symposium featuring industry leaders dominated the event. Individuals such as Tom Putnam of Langdale Fuel discussed how they were utilizing alternate fuels to their advantage.

Putnam explained that Langdale began looking at compressed natural gas after diesel fuel prices spiked several years ago.

"We practically haul all of our product by truck," Putnam said. "With 40 trucks each burning 15-18,000 gallons of fuel per year, if you have a dollar spike in fuel prices, it's straight to the bottom line \$600-700,000. We knew that our ability to remain competitive was at risk if we didn't find some more stable fuel."

In Aug. 2013, Langdale opened a CNG fuel station that

has been used by a number of different operators.

"The biggest surprise we've had on our customer base is the number of refuse trucks that have come through, and we'll get 15 a week sometimes that are being delivered from the north, either Minnesota or north Georgia or Alabama," Putnam said. "These trucks are going somewhere in Florida, either Orlando or Tampa, and they have this carryback service that comes through, four or five together, and that's been a huge business for us."

A number of alternative fuels were featured outside the symposium, such as an electric-powered Nissan Leaf presented by EFACEC, a supplier of electronic vehicle chargers, as well as electric-powered vehicles supplied by Georgia Power and natural gas-powered vehicles presented by Mansfield Clean Energy Partners.

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