Alpine Waste makes big move into compressed natural gas

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Alpine Waste & Recycling Co. is cutting the ribbon Tuesday on a new, 26-pump, compressed natural gas refueling station in Commerce City.

The Commerce City-based company (website) has eight trucks that run on natural gas. By the end of 2011, the company expects to convert about 30 percent of its 50-vehicle fleet to run on natural gas.

Colorado’s oil and gas industry has promoted using natural gas as a fuel because it’s a home-grown resource that burns cleaner than petroleum-based diesel and generates local jobs, as detailed by the Denver Business Journal in November.

“The more committed that we become to natural gas, the more clearly we have seen its benefits,” said John Griffith, Alpine’s president, in an announcement. “Alpine’s natural gas trucks burn fuel more cleanly and more quietly, and it is a Colorado resource, meaning that we are helping the state’s economy.”

The Alpine CNG, at least for now, is for its trucks only.

Alpine worked with Clean Energy Fuels Corp., based in Seal Beach, Calif. Alpine said it expects to save $140,000 a year in refueling costs because natural gas costs less, on a per-gallon equivalent, than diesel, and because the trucks won’t need to be closely monitored during over-night refueling operations.

CNG refueling stations typically cost about $1 million to build.
CNG stations opened Saturday in Rifle and Grand Junction, helping to fill in a gap in the availability of the fuel for motorists traveling between Denver and Salt Lake City.