

COLUMBUS FLEET MANAGEMENT RECEIVES ACCOLADES

The City of Columbus Fleet Management Division provides state-of-the-art total fleet management service – “cradle to grave” responsibility for over 5,900 pieces of city vehicles/equipment and ensures that the city’s Replacement Standard drives replacement budgets for all vehicles,

The Division is the largest municipality in the country that is ASE Blue Seal recognized, with over 80% of technicians with ASE certifications. Fleet Management develops and promotes policies that help govern the acquisition, maintenance, use and disposal of vehicles, including the development and implementation of the Mayor’s Green Fleet Action Plan which sets goals and outlines strategies for greening the City’s fleet.

The mission of the division is to provide fleet management services to city agencies to ensure efficient, safe, reliable, and green vehicle operation and maintenance. The Division continues to earn recognition both nationally and regionally for its efficient management, quality staff, superior services, and innovative green practices.

Columbus was ranked the 3rd Best Fleet in North America for 2011 through the “100 Best Fleets” program - an annual self-assessment program that measures accomplishments against industry standards. This is the third year Columbus has been in the top 20 out of 100 Best Fleets and the fourth year as a “100 Best Fleets” recipient.

In 2008, Columbus opened a state of the art maintenance facility that combined six facilities into a 150,000-square-foot one-stop-shop for city vehicles. This facility has 24/7 staffing capabilities and enables cross training of mechanics. It has the latest technology in repair equipment for the automotive/truck repair industry and has a 1500 kw generator that enables off-the-grid ability for up to a week or more.

Fleet Management works to identify green opportunities, promote new technological developments and increase training opportunities for employees in an effort to maintain vehicles safely while increasing energy efficiency.

Columbus built the largest fast fill Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station in the Midwest, which opened in March. By mid-2012, Columbus will have 23 dedicated CNG heavy duty vehicles in operation. Columbus was named the #1 Greenest Fleet in North America by the 100 Best Green Fleets program for 2011, up from the 7th spot in 2010.

Fleet also received the Clean Fuels Ohio “Champions Award” for 2011 for its innovative thinking and progressive practices toward greening the fleet.

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In an effort to increase efficiencies, realize cost savings, and increase revenues, Columbus, Gahanna, Dublin, Grandview Heights, Upper Arlington, Hilliard, Worthington, New Albany, and Westerville entered into a shared services agreement, a non-binding agreement that will allow municipalities to share a range of services, including fleet services.

The agreement, officially a memorandum of understanding, allows municipalities to enter into contracts for one year, with an additional four, one-year renewals for vehicle/maintenance repairs at mutually agreed upon rates.

Columbus Fleet Management will be able to provide vehicle/equipment maintenance services for smaller municipalities and allow cooperative purchasing for Parts and Service. Given the current economic climate and the financial difficulties many municipalities are facing due to declining tax revenues, this shared services agreement allows partnerships that will help all involved maximize tax dollars, doing more with less.