

THE ALTERNATIVE FUEL PRICE REPORT



This is the fifth 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 October 15 and October 22, 2001, with comparisons to the prices in the previous Price Report for the week of June 4, 2001.

Gasoline and Diesel Prices

Regular grade gasoline averaged \$1.265 per gallon nationwide during the week of October 22, 2001. This represents a decrease of \$0.414 per gallon from the previous Price Report (June 2001), 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 October 22, prices ranged from a low of \$1.163 in the Lower Atlantic region to a high of \$1.505 on the West Coast. The price in the Midwest fell most sharply since June 2001, though prices in every region of the United States fell significantly during this period of time. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.

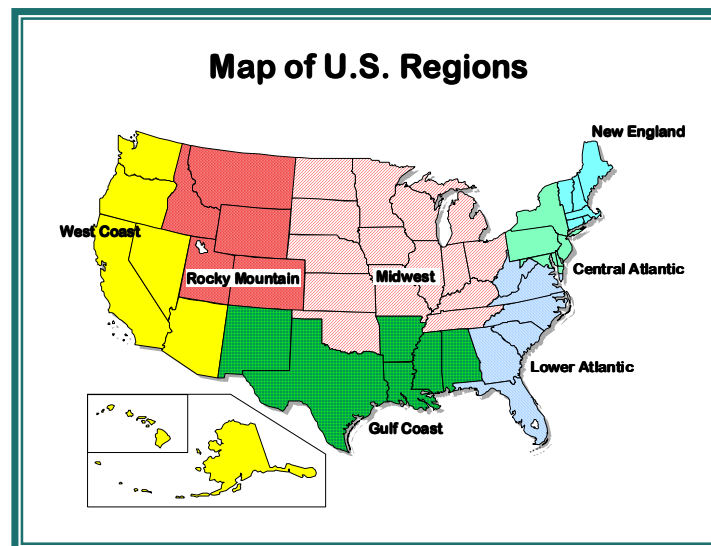
Gasoline Price Trends

	Week of 6-4-01	Week of 10-22-01	Change in Price
New England	\$1.751	\$1.336	(\$0.415)
Central Atlantic	\$1.708	\$1.298	(\$0.410)
Lower Atlantic	\$1.534	\$1.163	(\$0.371)
Midwest	\$1.739	\$1.184	(\$0.555)
Gulf Coast	\$1.557	\$1.179	(\$0.378)
Rocky Mountain	\$1.680	\$1.418	(\$0.262)
West Coast	\$1.795	\$1.505	(\$0.290)
Nationwide Average	\$1.679	\$1.265	(\$0.414)

Diesel fuel averaged \$1.318 per gallon nationwide during the week of October 22, 2001. This represents a decrease of \$0.196 per gallon from the previous Price Report (June 2001). Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in this table to the right. During the week of October 22, diesel prices ranged from a low of \$1.239 in the Lower Atlantic region to a high of \$1.420 in New England. Between June 4 and October 22, prices for diesel dropped in each region of the country. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.

Diesel Price Trends

	Week of 6-4-01	Week of 10-22-01	Change in Price
New England	\$1.531	\$1.420	(\$0.111)
Central Atlantic	\$1.532	\$1.377	(\$0.155)
Lower Atlantic	\$1.402	\$1.239	(\$0.163)
Midwest	\$1.561	\$1.329	(\$0.232)
Gulf Coast	\$1.450	\$1.255	(\$0.195)
Rocky Mountain	\$1.622	\$1.408	(\$0.214)
West Coast	\$1.580	\$1.417	(\$0.163)
Nationwide Average	\$1.514	\$1.318	(\$0.196)



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 \$0.94 per GGE in the Lower Atlantic region to a high of \$1.34 per GGE in the Central Atlantic region during the week of October 22, 2001. Prices for CNG were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from the New England region.)

CNG Price Trends

	Week of 6-4-01	Week of 10-22-01	Change in Price	Number of Respondents
New England	\$1.13	No Info	-	0
Central Atlantic	\$1.29	\$1.34	\$0.05	4
Lower Atlantic	\$1.16	\$0.94	(\$0.22)	2
Midwest	\$1.14	\$1.26	\$0.12	5
Gulf Coast	No Info	\$1.08	-	3
Rocky Mountain	\$1.11	\$1.19	\$0.08	2
West Coast	\$1.80	\$1.18	(\$0.62)	6

Propane Prices

Propane retail pump prices in the various regions of the country during the week of October 22, 2001 are illustrated in the accompanying table. Regional average propane prices ranged from a low of \$1.24 per gallon (\$1.66 per GGE) in the Midwest region to a high of \$2.09 per gallon (\$2.81 per GGE) in the Central Atlantic region. Prices for propane were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the New England region.)

Propane Price Trends

	Week of 6-4-00	Week of 10-22-01	Change in Price	Number of Respondents
New England	\$1.65	No Info	-	0
Central Atlantic	No Info	\$2.09	-	2
Lower Atlantic	\$0.89	\$1.64	\$0.75	1
Midwest	\$0.93	\$1.24	\$0.31	3
Gulf Coast	No Info	\$1.57	-	3
Rocky Mountain	\$1.24	\$1.62	\$0.38	2
West Coast	\$1.52	\$1.42	(\$0.10)	6

Electricity Prices

Residential, off-peak electricity prices for the various regions of the country during the week of October 22, 2001 are illustrated in the accompanying table. Regional average prices range from 7¢ per kilowatt-hour in the Rocky Mountain region to 8.6¢ per kilowatt-hour in the Central Atlantic region. Prices for electricity were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts.

Electricity Price Trends

	Week of 6-4-01	Week of 10-22-01	Change in Price	Number of Respondents
New England	\$0.084	No Info	-	0
Central Atlantic	No Info	\$0.086	-	3
Lower Atlantic	\$0.069	No Info	-	0
Midwest	\$0.066	\$0.080	\$0.014	1
Gulf Coast	No Info	\$0.071	-	2
Rocky Mountain	\$0.076	\$0.070	(\$0.006)	1
West Coast	\$0.078	\$0.074	(\$0.004)	4

One method for comparing electricity to conventional fuels is to calculate the fuel cost per year for sample vehicles. The table to the right illustrates three sample electric vehicles; the Ford Ranger, the Toyota Rav4, and the Nissan Altra¹. Fuel costs per year were calculated based upon 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, and fuel costs were chosen from the range of prices above (7¢ per kilowatt-hour and 8¢ per kilowatt-hour). 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 (7¢/kWh)	Electric Vehicle (8¢/kWh)	Gasoline Vehicle
Ford Ranger	\$340	\$380	\$760
Toyota Rav4	\$250	\$290	\$580
Nissan Altra	\$230	\$260	\$610

¹ 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.

Ethanol (E85) Prices

For the week of October 22, 2001, E85 prices were obtained from the Lower Atlantic, Midwest, Rocky Mountains and West Coast. Regional average prices range from a low of \$1.42 per gallon (\$1.78 per GGE), to a high of \$2.15 per gallon (\$2.69 per GGE).² Prices for E85 were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts.

Ethanol Price Trends

	Week of 6-4-01	Week of 10-22-01	Change in Price	Number of Respondents
New England	No Info	No Info	-	0
Central Atlantic	\$1.59	No Info	-	0
Lower Atlantic	\$1.79	\$1.60	(\$0.19)	2
Midwest	\$1.18	\$1.58	\$0.40	3
Gulf Coast	No Info	No Info	-	0
Rocky Mountain	\$1.18	\$1.42	\$0.24	1
West Coast	No Info	\$2.15	-	1

Biodiesel (B20) Prices

Biodiesel prices for the week of October 22, 2001, are shown in the table to the right. This is the first time the Alternative Fuels Price Report has reported biodiesel prices. The prices shown represent B20, a fuel composed of conventional diesel (80%) and biodiesel (20%). Regional average prices ranged from \$1.45 per gallon in the Lower Atlantic region to \$1.80 per gallon in the Central Atlantic and West Coast regions. Prices for biodiesel were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the New England, Gulf Coast, or Rocky Mountain regions.)

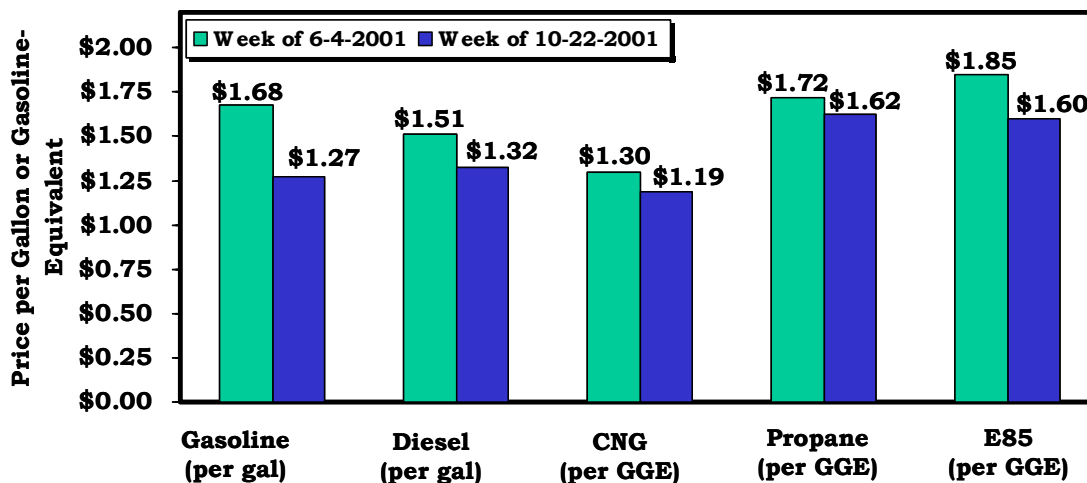
Biodiesel Price Trends

	Week of 10-22-01	Number of Respondents
New England	No Info	0
Central Atlantic	\$1.80	2
Lower Atlantic	\$1.45	2
Midwest	\$1.47	4
Gulf Coast	No Info	0
Rocky Mountain	No Info	0
West Coast	\$1.80	2

Summary

During the week of October 22, 2001, gasoline prices were significantly lower than they had been during the week of June 4, 2001 (the time period of the previous Price Report). Diesel prices also were lower. The price of CNG increased in some regions and decreased in others. Propane prices rose in most reporting regions, but decreased slightly on the West Coast between June 4, 2001, and October 22, 2001. The graph below illustrates the relative prices of gasoline, diesel, CNG, propane, E85, and biodiesel.³

Selected Fuel Prices in the U.S.



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

³ Gasoline and diesel prices in the graph are averages; CNG, propane, and E85 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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