



24 Sustainability Success Stories in 2024

Story 19 of 24: Transportation

Powering Shuttles with Landfill Natural Gas

UPMC's Oakland shuttles now run on natural gas sourced from the Seneca Landfill in Mars, Pa. The landfill captures methane through a capping and piping system, preventing its release into the atmosphere and reducing climate impact.

Unlike typical landfills, which burn most of the methane, Vogel refines 99% of it for use as natural gas. Capping also minimizes a landfill's environmental impact by isolating waste under a layer of material (asphalt, concrete, clay, gravel, sand, etc.). This containment limits the spread of contamination and protects people and wildlife from exposure. Methane production follows a bell curve, with peak production occurring between 2 and 5 years after being trapped.

UPMC has partnered with Vogel to create a natural gas refueling station using a virtual pipeline at the Southside distribution center for Oakland shuttle buses that use natural gas. The fill station went live in mid-September of this year. Currently, all 62 natural gas-run Oakland shuttles use Vogel Landfill natural gas instead of gas obtained through fracking, a practice associated with serious environmental damage and negative impacts on the health of people living near fracking sites.

This story is a great example of the circular economy, a sustainability concept that repurposes waste rather than discards it.

"Using natural gas harvested from landfills is a significant step towards creating sustainable transportation for UPMC," said **Broc Johnson**, director, UPMC Supply Chain Fleet Safety and Transportation Program.

At the [UPMC Center for Sustainability](#), we are excited about the positive impact this initiative will have. Your support and engagement are vital as we work towards a greener and more efficient future.

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