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## **City of Meriden “Goes Green” with New CNG Fueling Station, Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

### *Ribbon Cutting First of Many for New Connecticut Clean Cities Future Fuels Project*

Meriden, Connecticut (October 19, 2010)--The City of Meriden opens their first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling station for municipal vehicles at their fleet facility, 55 Michael Drive in a noon ribbon cutting ceremony, today.

The station is the first of many alternative fuels initiatives for the state of Connecticut over the next four years, thanks to the Connecticut Clean Cities Future Fuels Project (CTCCFF). A public/private partnership, the CTCCFF is an unprecedented coalition of forces and resources, featuring all four Connecticut Clean Cities organizations banding together under nearly \$13.2 million of funding from an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, U. S. Department of Energy Grant.

One of more than 30 partners in the CTCCFF, the City of Meriden invested in a variety of alternative fuel initiatives to power the city’s municipal vehicles. The new CNG station, designed and built by **Air & Gas Technologies Inc.**, can fast-fill 15 dedicated natural gas vehicles daily and was paid for through a combination of CTCCFF money and Capital Bond funds.

Vehicles serviced by the project include 8 planned or purchased CNG municipal vehicles. Also joining the CNG-fueled vehicles in the City of Meriden fleet will be a variety of hybrid-electric vehicles purchased with funds provided by the City and the Connecticut Department of Transportation Clean Fuel Vehicle grant program.

"Combining the environmental benefit of this project with the fuel cost savings that will follow is a home run for the City of Meriden. It's another great example of the City working with federal, state and non-profit agencies to save energy, reduce costs and make the City cleaner and greener, said Lawrence J. Kendzior, City Manager.

But going green is nothing new to the City of Meriden. Since 2007, the City has taken advantage of the Connecticut Department of Transportation Clean Fuel Vehicle grant program by purchasing seven hybrid-electric light-duty vehicles for use by the Health Department, Planning Department, Fire Marshal and Police Department. As of July 2010, those seven vehicles had logged over 58,000 miles in completion of their various duties. Three additional hybrid vehicles will be purchased by the Police Department in FY 2011.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will include remarks from various visiting dignitaries including Mayor Michael Rohde, Principal Investigator of the CTCCFF program, Lee Grannis and Craig Peters Coordinator Capital Clean Cities.

For more information on the City of Meriden’s Green Fleet investments, contact: Kevin Munson, Fleet Manager 203.630.4253 Juliet Burdelski, Grants Administrator 203.630.4105 Lawrence J. Kendzior, City Manager 203.630.4123. For more information about the CTCCFF, go to [www.CT-FutureFuels.com](http://www.CT-FutureFuels.com).

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