

Transition to Autogas: Spain's Journey



Growth of Autogas in Spain's Private and Public Sectors

LPG is a clean, modern fuel that brings comfort to tens of millions of consumers worldwide. Its versatility makes it efficient and easy to use and its clean burning qualities allow for lower carbon emissions with the same, if not better, results. Vehicles remain one of the most significant factors in air pollution, but those running on LPG produce far fewer of the harmful emissions associated with traditional road fuels that contribute to environmental and health problems. Autogas is clean, cost-friendly and easy alternative for powering vehicles while ensuring a lower carbon footprint.

This case study looks at the growth of Autogas in Spain and the roles of the public and private sectors in incentivising Spanish drivers to make the transition to Autogas.

A WLPGA case study for Exceptional Energy
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1. Autogas in Spain

Autogas is the most widely used alternative fuel in the world. Vehicles running on Autogas Produce 22% lower carbon emissions than petrol, 96% less Nitrogen emissions than diesel and 68% less nitrogen emissions than petrol. Seven of the ten largest manufacturers in the world produce LPG powered cars and there are 26 million vehicles running on Autogas around the globe. With the numerous benefits that switching to Autogas brings, it is important that the Autogas sector receives aid in making a significant and durable switch. This has been the case in Spain, where local governments aid in the switch to Autogas using a myriad of benefits to facilitate the transition.

Companies within the private sector are also strengthening their commitment towards Autogas. With the public and private sectors claiming responsibility through their persistent efforts to facilitate maximum transition to Autogas in all regions of Spain, the country has already experienced a significant shift, with the numbers of vehicles transitioning to Autogas increasing in an effort to decrease its carbon footprint.



2. Madrid Transitioning to Autogas Vehicles

Through various Renove plans, the local government of Madrid will subsidise the conversion of vehicles to LPG so they can operate with cheaper and less polluting fuel. Each user joining this campaign will receive up to 400 Euros – 200 Euros transferred directly to the owner of the vehicle and the remaining through a discount on the invoice issued by the authorised vehicle workshops when the conversion is made. The 400 Euro scheme offers the advantages of Autogas as fuel savings, fewer breakdowns, discounts on parking meters and regulated parking areas, road tax bonuses and increased autonomy regarding circulation. The scheme provides individuals with such incentives as a way to promote Autogas and its long term benefits within the community.

The community of Madrid has allocated 250,000 Euros for the conversion to LPG. The four Renove plans that were recently approved have a grant of 670,000 Euros and generated an induced investment of more than 3.5 million Euros in 2016.

The “Strategy for Air Quality of the Community of Madrid” has been underway for the period 2013-2020. It indicated the promotion of cleaner vehicles and fuels for individuals, public transport and traffic management.

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3. Taxis in Galicia Switching to Autogas

In the region of Galicia, taxis in the city of Vigo are switching to the 'green philosophy' to reduce carbon emissions and fuel cost. There are currently 500 taxis in the municipality operating on Autogas and most of them were acquired over the last twelve months.

Given this increase in LPG vehicles, the Association of taxi owner-operators of the province of Pontevedra renewed its agreement with Repsol to further promote the use of Autogas. Repsol has 359 LPG refueling stations throughout Spain and in the city of Vigo, there are two facilities already running with a third opening.



4. Autogas Patrol Cars in Tenerife

The municipality of San Miguel de Abona in the province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife has introduced new vehicles powered by LPG that will help the government save up to fifty percent in fuel costs, doubling their time of effectiveness and efficiency. The conversion of cars to Autogas propulsion system has been made possible due to the collaboration of the municipality of San Miguel with the Association of Users of Alternative Energy Vehicles (AUVEA) and DISA Autogas retailer and refueling station network. The partnership helps save the costs and increases the efficiency of local police vehicles.

The police department tested both vehicles for over 10,000 km with results showing the cars are not only cost effective, but also environmentally friendly as they emit fifteen percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. With these incorporations, the municipality of San Miguel de Abona becomes the first in the province of Tenerife deploying patrol vehicles powered with Autogas. The transition of patrol cars to Autogas has set new limits to the extensive efforts that can be made in lowering carbon footprint.

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5. Car Rental Goes Green with Autogas

Goldcar, a rental car company with agencies all over Spain, has strengthened its Goldcar blue project, aimed at contributing to the environmental, sustainable mobility and reducing air/noise pollution by adding a new Autogas car option to its fleet of over 200 vehicles.

Goldcar customers may access Autogas cars in several models including Opel Corsa, Fiat 500 or Panda. In addition to this, as a special measure of support, Goldcar facilitates rental at a very competitive price, similar to the conventional fleet price. CEO of Goldcar explained that “the company’s commitment to reduce its carbon footprint is clear and therefore they continue to focus efforts on expanding the supply of environmentally friendly cars across branch networks.” This private company is working in parallel with the various governments in Spain to decrease its carbon footprint. Goldcar is an example of what is being done in the private sector to encourage the use of Autogas.



6. Making a Difference

Spain has experienced great success in transitioning vehicles to run on Autogas. According to a study carried out by the Sondea Research Institute for the AOGLP, almost 50% of Spanish drivers are willing to switch to Autogas. Through various initiatives in the public and private sectors, the encouragement to switch and the willingness of Spanish citizens to do so has been overwhelming, with more than 50,000 vehicles running on Autogas throughout the country.

Through incentivising the transition to Autogas with various benefits, Spanish drivers have become more motivated than ever to lower carbon emissions and decrease their carbon footprint. Spain has experienced great growth in the Autogas market with hopes that such growth will continue to progress.

7. Acknowledgements

www.auto-gas.net

www.aoglp.com

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