



National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium

Training Centers Nationwide

History of the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium

West Virginia University (WVU) started the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) in late 1992 to address the urgent need for training and support of alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) technicians in the field. WVU worked closely with the natural gas industry in conceiving the program. A Train-the-Trainers approach was adopted and courses were developed to teach alternative fuel vehicle technology to these trainers who then return to their institutions to conduct training. After receiving their initial training at West Virginia University, these trainers are supported with updated training, technical materials, training aids, and on-line information through the NAFTC's Web site. The audience for the program includes Vo-Tech instructors, Four-Year College and Community College faculty, fleet managers, technicians, instructors, government agency personnel, military support personnel, utility technicians, and anyone involved in alternative fuel vehicle development.

In 1995, WVU announced the addition of six technical training centers to the program to enhance dissemination of alternative fuels training materials and public education and awareness programs. Since that time, the program has expanded to include higher education institutions located nationwide from Maine to California, in a formal training network now known as the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC). Numerous other members from secondary schools, small businesses, government, and industry also support the NAFTC's mission.

Each center provides *Training with Impact* through its experienced instructors and real-world shop facilities, delivering over 1,100 courses and training over 16,500 students, and technicians, fleet managers, decision-makers, and others from industry, academic, and governmental organizations. The U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Program, and private fleets are example users of training materials from the NAFTC. In addition, over 1,300 workshops and education/awareness events have been conducted, with over 350,000 attendees.

The NAFTC is headquartered at West Virginia University and conducts business under the auspices of the National Research Center for Coal and Energy. The NAFTC Headquarters and the National Alternative Fuels Training Laboratory are located in Morgantown, WV.

To foster its mission, the NAFTC seeks the involvement of educational institutions; fuel providers; equipment and parts manufacturers; industry, federal, and state agencies; and professional, educational, and training associations.

The basic NAFTC Train-the-Trainers courses include classroom time to learn fundamentals, videos, discussions, pre- and post-tests, and lab/shop activities. When in Morgantown, WV, a multi-bay automotive lab is used during training for demonstration, skills training, diagnostics, emissions testing, and maintenance issues. A Repair Grade (RG) Dynamometer is used to demonstrate important automotive concepts as they relate to alternative fuels. New modules are developed to address specific topics in the evolution of the AFV industry.

The NAFTC programs tap the capability of its member National Training Centers and Colleges and Departments at West Virginia University, including the expertise of WVU's College of Human Resources and Education, College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, WVU Extension Service, and the National Research Center for Coal and Energy.



Headquartered at

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