

## Lexi Overholt and Scott Overholt Traverse City Commission Meeting - July

My name is Lexi Overholt, I'm here with my father, Scott. Our family owns Tri-Gas Distributing on Barlow St. We've been servicing greater Traverse City families and businesses since 1947, when my great grandfather started the business.

We're here to acknowledge the city's good work on the Traverse City Climate Action Plan. Its goal is to reduce emissions down to net zero by 2050.

Our only concern is the plan seems to be too reliant on the electrification of everything. For instance, we wish the plan would include EPA-listed, alternative clean fuels like propane. The Traverse City Climate Plan says it wants to transition 100 diesel school buses to electric school buses.

Replacing those diesel school buses with electric busses will cost the city around \$40 Million. If we purchase propane busses... it will only cost around \$10 Million.

**Electric busses are very expensive and pollute more than propane. I'll explain.**

Our local utility is a good one. But like most utilities it needs to use a mix of fuels that includes coal and other fossil fuels to generate electricity. That means 100 electric busses being charged in our city will emit 24 additional metric tons per year of green house gasses when compared to propane buses.

I'm Scott Overholt, I know it might sound selfish of Lexy and me talking up propane. But Michigan does have a long history of using propane vehicles. There is over 33,000 of them on Michigan roads.

We agree with most of the reasons that are driving the growth of electric vehicles.

What is missing in the EV debate are the destructive human and environmental costs in its supply chain.

Electric vehicles are in the national news because a Harvard scientist exposed the human suffering it takes to create electric batteries. That scientist along with human rights groups are pointing out the militia-controlled mining happening in the Congo using children, their parents and other adults to mine the key ingredient in our EVs - Cobalt. These people are mining in open



Tri-Gas Distributing starting in 1947, located at 1660 Barlow St. Traverse City, Mich.



Tri-Gas Distributing opened in Traverse City during the May 1947 snow storm, just in time to keep area family's homes warm.



Leon Overholt, Tri-Gas Distributing founder.

pits using crude hand tools, including digging with spoons. It's a big problem when you realize the Congo supplies about 75% of the world's cobalt.

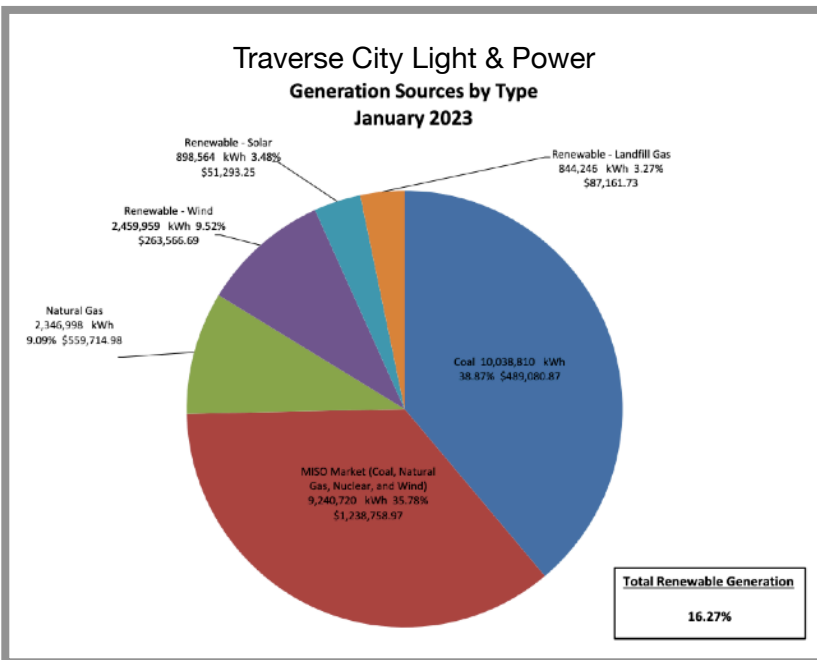
Our local Benzie Bus operator is helping us meet Traverse City's Climate Plan goals. Their fleet of 20 propane fueled transport vehicles has saved significant taxpayer money because propane fuel is cheaper, engines require less maintenance and the same power and torque as a diesel engine. They are not the only fleet that runs on propane in Traverse City.

Since 2016, Bay Area Transportation Authority's propane vehicle fleet has reduced NOx by over 90%. NOx is a pollutant given off by their old diesel busses. It's also a pollutant that comes from electric vehicles being charged by coal plants. Electric vehicles

Lexi and I want to thank the Mayor and our commissioners for letting us present today.

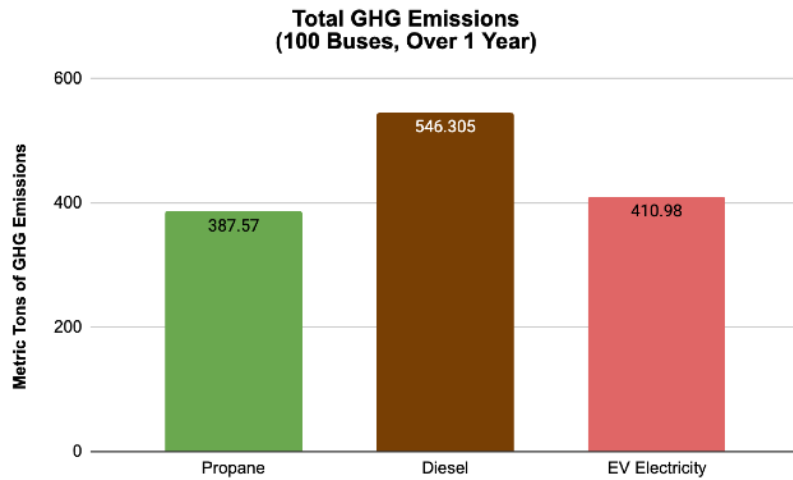


BATA is saving taxpayer money well also significantly reducing emissions in the Grand Traverse Area.



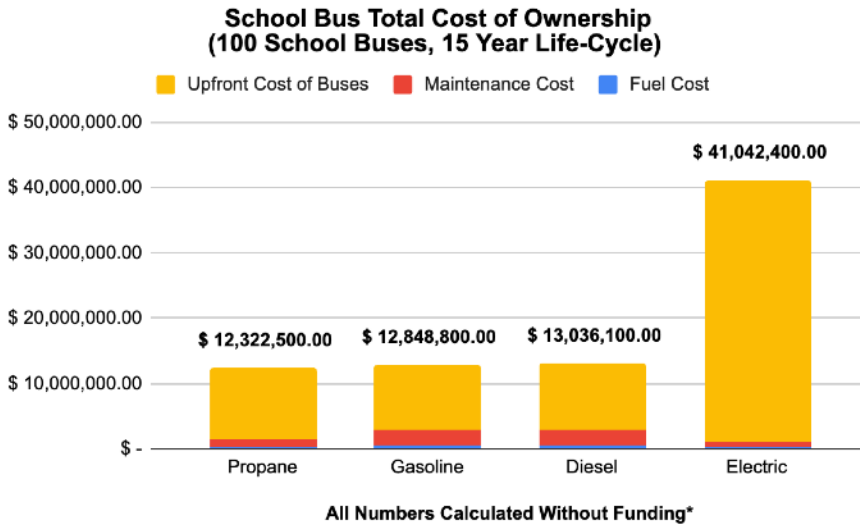
Service Area for both Benzie Bus and Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA)

# Traverse City Area Public Schools - 100 School Bus Fleet Currently Running on Diesel, Savings if Transitioned to Propane



*Emissions Source:*  
GREET Calculator 2022, Argonne National Laboratory

Traverse City Light and Power Electricity Generation, Jan. 2023



*Department of Transportation:*  
Bus Lifecycle Cost Model for Federal Land Management Agencies

