



Wyoming Fuel Tax News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

JUNE 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- FTA Updates
- *Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball Update*
- Rules & Regs Review/ Update
- New Fuel Tax Rate
- We Share Your Passion

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Fuel Tax Administration Updates

Right off the bat we must apologize for the delay in getting the newsletter published. Time got away from us as we were preparing for the fuel tax increase, and as the saying goes “the best laid plans.....” Rest assured that we are ready for the tax rate change, but while updating forms and other changes were easy fixes, ensuring that our system was set-up to track the \$.10 increase per the law proved to be more challenging.

While we are on the subject of technology and our system—we are still in the process of developing and implementing the new fuel tax operating system. Actually, WYDOT Financial Systems is developing the system and we are working with them to ensure that all facets of administering the fuel tax are captured. Administering the tax is complicated business, and building a system to effectively do that has proven to be a little more challenging than initially thought. We are fortunate to have a great relationship with Financial Systems, and our partnership with them during this endeavor has all of us believing that the transition will be seamless for our customers when the system does *go live*. While we would like to already be working in the new system, we are frontloading all of our efforts to ensure that we’ve identified all of the bugs prior to rolling it out. We are currently in the testing phase and hope to be moving to the training phase within the next 30 days. We are anticipating a *go live* date in the fall, and we will be sure to communicate that timeframe once it has been established.

As was mentioned earlier, the new fuel tax rate of \$.24 went into effect on July 1, 2013.

The increase in fuel tax will represent approximately \$70 million more in revenue each year, with about two-thirds of that amount being allocated to WYDOT for high-way maintenance.

In April, the FTA Team worked through the strategic planning process to create a new, 3 year Balanced Scorecard strategic plan. The first phase of the process was to review our mission, vision and values and then to work through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) analysis. Following the SWOT analysis, the team then reviewed the existing Balanced Scorecard to identify any unmet goals or strategies that needed to be moved to the new strategic plan. The final step in the planning process was to identify our new strategic goals with related measures and strategies. Since the meeting we have refined our SWOT analysis, and we are now in the process of refining the measures and strategies we identified for our new Balanced Scorecard. Once we have finalized our strategic plan, we will once again share our goals with you through this newsletter.

We are also working on a rules & regulations review/update (*please see article on page 2*), we are in the final stages of completing our internal and external education programs, and the fourth quarter of 2013 should see us start the process redesign project that will likely require a great deal of attention well into 2014.

We remain focused on operating our program as a business, and we are committed to identifying efficiencies while ensuring that the service you receive from us is of the highest quality.



Fuel For Kids

“Our review of the rules & regulations has identified several areas that we can clarify and several others that may not be necessary.”



Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball Update

The *Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball* is fast approaching, and the Fuel Tax Team is pleased with how the event is coming together. The team had initially set a fundraising goal of \$10,000, but recently determined that we needed to raise our goal to \$20,000 based on the support we are receiving for the event. To date, we have raised \$11,100 from sponsorships and in-kind donations, and we are hopeful that ticket sales matched with silent & live auction receipts allow us to reach our new goal.

The *Ball* will feature dinner, live & silent auctions, and special musical guest *Brand 307*. “Response from community businesses has been phenomenal,” said Wayne Hassinger, Chairman for the event. In addition to cash sponsorships, the committee has

received an assortment of auction items including: A Polaris Side-by-Side ATV; CFD 100th anniversary memorabilia; a framed limited edition conservation stamp and print from Wyoming Game and Fish; and hot air balloon rides. The committee will continue soliciting additional cash and auction donations throughout the summer in hopes of meeting the fundraising goal.

While the Fuel Tax Team has consistently been focused on giving back to the community, this event has certainly put us to the test and has proven to be an event that requires a great deal of organization and commitment. “We are proud of what we have achieved already, and we are looking forward to this being a very successful

event that will help fund a necessary non-profit program within our community,” stated Rosa Rodriguez, Auction Chair for the event.

The *Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball* will be held on Saturday, September 28th at the Historic Plains Hotel in downtown Cheyenne. The event will begin at 6pm with cocktails, dinner will be served at 7pm, and live entertainment will follow dinner. Tickets are \$40 each, and are on sale now. To learn more about the event, please *like* us on Facebook or feel free to contact our office.

For more information on the valuable and necessary mission of the Friday Food Bag Foundation, please visit their website at: www.ffbag.org.

Rules & Regulations

FTA’s Strategic Law Team is currently working on a rules & regulations review and update.

The review is in response to a request from Governor Mead that all rules & regulations be reviewed and streamlined where possible. The update is in response to a bill that was introduced during this past legislative session speaking to energy equivalency. We are working to identify the energy or gallon equivalent of any

combination of fuel products used to propel motor vehicles. These updated rules will formalize our current practice of taxing fuel at an equivalency to what takes place today with compressed natural gas.

Our review of the rules & regulations has identified several areas that we can clarify and several others that may not be necessary.

While we initially anticipat-

ed having the updated rules promulgated and in place by December 31, 2013, we now believe that a more realistic timeframe will be first quarter 2014 due to the governor’s request of all state agencies to review their rules & regulations.

As with any rules & regulations update, once they have been approved by the AG there will be a public review/comment period prior to them becoming effective.

Wyoming to Host The FTA 2014 Annual Meeting

Jackson Hole, Wyoming will be the setting for the Federation of Tax Administrators Motor Fuel Tax Section Annual Meeting in 2014.

While specific dates and meeting venues have yet to be determined, the Wyoming FTA & Audit Teams are excited to have the opportunity to host the FTA Annual Meeting in Wyoming.



The conference program consists of general session topics such as updates from the Internal Revenue, Federal Highway Administration, Canadian Fuel Tax Council, Uniformity, ASHA-TO, American Petroleum Institute with more topics of interest to state motor fuel tax administrators and industry.

The annual meeting provides a forum for states to share their best practices and to hear about the latest and greatest in improved processes, compliance innovations, and more. Idea sharing, networking opportunities, trends to embrace, and pitfalls to avoid are all included in the conference.

The conference typically starts on

Sunday afternoon with registration, New Member Orientation, and the FTA Welcome Reception. The general session will then commence the next day.

The 2013 FTA Annual Meeting is being held in Fargo, North Dakota from Sunday, September 22nd through Wednesday, September 25th.

We would like to extend an early invitation to you to come join us in Jackson Hole in 2014.



New Fuel Tax Rate & Updated Gasoline Definition

Effective July 1, 2013, Wyoming's fuel tax rate increased to \$.24 per gallon. *Please note that the increased fuel tax rate does not apply to aviation gasoline or jet fuel.* The updated fuel tax forms can be found on our website: http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/business_with_wydot/fuel_tax/tax_returns.html

Also effective July 1, 2013, the definition of gasoline now includes butane, ethane, methane and liquefied gas. Changes to the gasoline definition have required us to update our product codes on the supplier and distributor tax returns. We have included butane (product code 055) and ethane (product code 052) as blending components. Ethanol and/or methanol will now be reported as

product code 123, and all other blending components without a specific product code will be reported as product code 122. Taxes of \$.24 per gallon will continue to be due on Lines 23 and 23a when blending components are blended with another fuel.

For reporting purposes: Compressed natural gas (CNG), and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) will be encompassed in the gasoline fuel family and liquid Natural Gas (LNG) will be encompassed in the diesel fuel family.

In regards to the collection of taxes: Suppliers will not collect taxes at the terminal for CNG, LPG or LNG unless it is being sold

directly to a dealer or retail location for use in a motor vehicle. Distributors, Importers, Exporters, and Alternative Fuel Dealers will be required to collect and remit taxes to Wyoming Fuel Tax Administration if CNG, LPG or LNG is sold for use in motor vehicles.

Thank you for implementing the changes discussed above. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Wyoming Fuel Tax Administration.



“Effective July 1, 2013, Wyoming’s fuel tax rate increased to \$.24 per gallon. Please note that the increased fuel tax rate does not apply to aviation gasoline or jet fuel.”

We Share Your **PASSION**



Kimberly Peters:
Program Supervisor

I have several passions, but the most meaningful one is reef keeping. Reef keeping entails creating a habitat which is a little part of the ocean with an abundant amount of marine life in an aquarium. It is not an easy undertaking, as setting up and properly caring for a reef system is time consuming. The commitment to marine animals is long-term and something I take very seriously.

Currently, I have several different marine aquariums. One has seahorses with marine plants and a few soft corals. Another is full of soft and stony corals such as zooanthids, chalices, blastomussa, and acans. In what I would consider to be my show aquarium, marine fish such as clownfish and purple tangs can

be found swimming amongst all of the beautiful corals housed on Caribbean live rock. The bottom or the sandy part of the aquarium houses four crocea and maxima clams. These clams are not the typical clams you find in a grocery store or seafood restaurant. They are vibrant clams, full of various colors including shades of purples, blues, and gold. The snails are considered the clean-up crew because they maintain the biological balance in the tanks. Each of my tanks holds these dynamic little creatures.

It is easy to say my passion of reef keeping and the fuel industry, which is so much a part of my life, are similar. They are long-term, complex and full of commitment. Maybe that's why I enjoy both so much; in addition to the hard work and dedication both require maintaining balance.

There is nothing that is more relaxing than coming home after a day's work and sitting in front of a tranquil part of the ocean and allowing myself to drift away.



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