

Container Solutions for Recycling Programs      Carts for Single Stream



## LETTERS

### Congrats to El Paso

Regarding your Feb. 9 article, "Texas City gets Compressed Natural Gas Power Truck," congratulations to El Paso's Environmental Services Department and to Royal Disposal and Recycling in Fulshear, Texas, for putting five new natural gas refuse trucks into operation. Each of these trucks means a step forward for our country in reduced dependence on foreign oil and the volatile prices of this fuel. But they also will greatly improve the quality of life for the communities they serve. They are virtually free of the soot and smog-forming nitrogen oxide emissions and the toxic substances spewed out by older diesel trucks, and they are 90% quieter. So they safeguard the health of residents but also the health of the truck operators, who, in working with diesel trucks, have suffered hearing loss and elevated rates of respiratory disease and lung cancer.

They, however, do more than all this. Once these trucks and the systems that serve them are adapted to use of a gaseous rather than a liquid fuel, they are on their way toward totally sustainable operation in the future. They are poised to shift to an even better gas fuel, biomethane, a "chemical twin" of natural gas but produced by collecting and refining the biogases generated in landfills, at sewage treatment plants and wherever organic wastes are breaking down. Biomethane is being produced and used as a transportation fuel today in Sweden, France, Germany and Spain, and the technology is just arriving in the United States. So there are many reasons to celebrate.

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