Source: Energy Vision www.energy-vision.org

# News Release

For immediate release

Contact: Stephen Kent, skent@kentcom.com, 914-589-5988

## As Diesel Prices Hit Record Highs, Leaders Helping Scale Renewable Natural Gas as a Clean Alternative Receive Energy Vision Awards

[New York, NY – October 19 , 2026] At its 20th$^{th}$ annual Leadership Awards event in New York City, the non-profit Energy Vision has honored industry and municipal leaders working to accelerate adoption of renewable natural gas (RNG) made from organic waste.

On a lifecycle basis, RNG derived from manure or food waste has the lowest carbon emissions of any fuel available and is often net-carbon negative. All RNG currently costs much less and deeply cuts emissions compared to diesel, offering a practical, clean alternative to diesel's price volatility and its climate and health impacts.

Energy Vision is a 501(c)3 research institute which studies and promotes clean, low-carbon fuels for a sustainable energy future. This year's winners of its Leadership Awards are:

**Capital Region Water** – A municipal water authority serving the greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area, whose state-of-the-art $27 million Energy Recovery Improvements Project went into operation this year. It captures raw biogas from municipal wastewater in anaerobic digesters, avoiding methane emissions, and refines it into RNG, turning municipal waste sludge into homegrown energy. The facility has a direct interconnection to UGI Utilities' grid, injecting RNG into natural gas pipelines. The potential for scaling up RNG production from U.S. wastewater treatment plants is vast, and CRW offers a scalable model that hundreds of other municipalities could follow.

**OPAL Fuels** – A leading vertically integrated producer and distributor of renewable natural gas, with more than 25 years of experience capturing methane from landfills and dairies and converting it into renewable fuel and power. OPAL currently operates 12 RNG projects nationwide, with eight more under construction or in development, and is the country's second-largest RNG distributor, supplying about 12% of all RNG dispensed in the U.S. The company has also built almost 300 RNG/CNG fueling stations nationwide, supporting more than 8,000 Class 8 trucks each day, and constructs 35% to 40% of the nation's new RNG/CNG stations annually. OPAL demonstrates how waste-derived fuel and the infrastructure to deliver it can be scaled today to help heavy-duty fleets reduce emissions and exposure to diesel-price volatility.

**Cespira™** – Cespira is a leading manufacturer and supplier of its proprietary HPDI™ fuel system for decarbonizing heavy-duty applications. Cespira HPDI technology enables OEMs to decarbonize with LNG/BioLNG today, retain the diesel engine cycle, and extend engine platforms to other renewable fuels, such as hydrogen, as those markets develop. A joint venture between Volvo Group and Aetherion™ Technologies, with more than 10,000 HPDI-powered trucks in more than 30 countries, a global R&D center in Vancouver, and a manufacturing plant in Europe, Cespira is making HPDI work as a practical pathway to decarbonizing heavy transport at industrial scale today.

All three awardees leverage organic wastes which otherwise would be discarded as a renewable energy resource, turning a liability into a valuable asset. RNG production generates cost savings, new revenue streams, and clean, low-cost, domestic fuel, while deeply cutting emissions of methane and other pollutants.

The awardees' work is especially important now, as diesel prices well over $6/gallon are changing fuel economics, on the one hand squeezing fleets, farmers, and consumers, while on the other hand stimulating adoption of clean alternatives including RNG.

For example, last month 16 trucking companies filed for bankruptcy, while in New York the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) issued an RFP for 650 new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses to reduce exposure to diesel price volatility. These buses can run on RNG with no retrofitting, and MTA says 100% of any natural gas used to fuel them will be offset by RNG.

"We are honored to receive the 2026 Energy Vision Leadership Award and to be recognized for the work our team is doing to transform waste into a valuable source of domestic, low-carbon energy," said **Adam Comora**, Co-Chief Executive Officer of OPAL Fuels. "Our vertically integrated approach combines renewable fuel production with the infrastructure required to deliver that fuel to fleets, helping customers lower costs, improve price certainty, and transition away from diesel with a proven solution that is commercially available at scale today."

"It's an absolute privilege to accept and be recognized alongside OPAL and Cespira," said **Jess Rosentel,** Chief Operating Officer for wastewater at Capital Region Water. "CRW has been quietly innovating for decades, generating electricity from biogas as early as 1984. But the Energy Recovery Improvements Project took it to a new level. It transforms raw biogas into RNG and injects it into the utility's gas pipeline, a massive upgrade we accomplished with no disruption in the water services we provide every day. Our RNG sales directly fund customer assistance programs, providing substantial relief to neighbors who need it most. It's a model other municipalities can follow. The potential for wastewater RNG is staggering; it's time we fully tap into it."

"We're on the path to decarbonizing heavy transport using low carbon, renewable fuels," said **Charlie Ker,** Senior Director of Business Development at Cespira. "Energy Vision has been sending this message for two decades: projects like CRW can turn organic waste into RNG, companies like OPAL can dispense it, forward thinking operators can run their fleets on it -- it's as inventive as it is inspirational. I am happy to accept this award on behalf of all our colleagues working to accelerate RNG in the heavy transport sector."

"We've come a long way in the last two decades," said **Matt Tomich,** President of Energy Vision. "In 2011 there were 31 RNG facilities in North America. Now there are over 600, and RNG is commercial and competitive. Energy Vision's research helped make the case, but it's leaders and innovators like CRW, OPAL, and Cespira who are making it happen, and whose work is scaling RNG up."

A recent Energy Vision report found that the widening price gap between diesel and makes RNG the most feasible and cost-effective commercially available option for replacing diesel trucks at scale. At current national average diesel prices, the report calculated that the cost of replacing heavy-duty (Class 7 or Class 8) trucks with CNG trucks equipped with efficient engines and running them on RNG could be recouped in just 1.3 to 2.8 years. After the break-even point, RNG-powered trucks will save fleet owners money relative to diesel while continuing to slash their emissions.

Energy Vision has studied the feasibility and impacts of scaling up anaerobic digestion (AD) to reach RNG production potential in the US. It found upgrading 475 US wastewater treatment plants with enhanced AD capabilities similar to Capital Region Water's Energy Recovery Improvements Project could directly cut some 5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually, while also increasing RNG output, which could displace more fossil fuel, cutting GHG emissions further. Building out digester infrastructure to process U.S. food waste and farm manure would cost around $74 billion for around 4,700 ADs, roughly half the cost of plugging all 2.1 million abandoned oil and gas wells in the U.S., yet it would avoid 12 times the methane emissions. Constructing those 4,700 ADs would get the U.S. roughly halfway (13.6%) to its Global Methane Pledge goal of cutting methane emissions 30% by 2030. In addition to RNG, which displaces diesel and other carbon-intensive fossil fuels, anaerobic digesters also produce high-quality soil amendments which displace carbon-intensive chemical fertilizers.

"For less than the cost of the [Iran] war, the US could expand its renewable energy and fertilizer production to more than it previously imported through the Strait," Energy Vision founder **Joanna Underwood** wrote in a recent *Financial Times/Sustainable Views* column. "This is well worth doing. Carbon-intensive fossil fuels are untenable for energy security and the climate, and clean energy is by far the better investment."

***NOTE TO EDITORS AND PRODUCERS: Photos and video are available on request. Sources quoted in this release and other expert sources are available for comment and interviews. For more information, please contact Stephen Kent, skent@kentcom.com, 914-589-5988***