NG Advantage began trucking compressed natural gas (CNG) to asphalt facilities not located on a gas pipeline in the spring of 2013. We currently serve various plants in the New England region and our customers have benefited from reduced emissions, dramatically decreased maintenance requirements and expenditures (e.g., baghouse replacement), and increased efficiency. NG Advantage has worked closely with asphalt companies to ensure an open line of communications. A close relationship is required because of the batch plants’ variable demand schedule and because weather and paving conditions can and do change hourly.

How Asphalt Plants Benefit From CNG

To maintain the temperature and consistency of the finished products, asphalt plants are typically located close to the paving project site. In many cases, these plants are not located near a natural gas pipeline, which means reliance on other sources of fuel that may be more expensive, demand greater amounts of equipment maintenance, or emit greater CO₂ emissions. A competitor that is located on a pipeline may be able to underbid the facility not on a pipeline.

Now there is an option for asphalt plants that burn over 30,000 MMBtu a year and that are located in proximity of an existing NG Advantage compressor station. NG Advantage delivers CNG to asphalt facilities with no access to a pipeline via the largest “virtual pipeline” fleet in the US. The “virtual pipeline” consists of 40 ft. carbon-fiber trailers that are hauled to the customer site. The gas is drawn directly from the trailer, decompressed, heated, and passed to the customer’s regulator, eliminating the need for onsite storage.

“Our emissions have been cut by 30%”

“We worked hand in hand with NG Advantage building our infrastructure to convert to natural gas. Their team made the transition happen quickly. We don’t have a natural gas pipeline in town. NG Advantage brought the pipeline to us!”

-Stephen J. Wilk
President, Wilk Paving, Inc.
The asphalt plant is responsible for the site work required to make their yard able to accept two-three trailers, bring communications, electricity, and a new low pressure gas pipe to the decompression station. A second burner is recommended to attain dual-fuel capability. Dual-fuel capability facilitates redundancy of supply and protects against price swings.

According to customer Stephen Wilk, President of Wilk Paving, Inc., “We are now a dual-fuel facility although we only ran one day on #2 fuel since we added natural gas. Payback on our conversion was about one year. We were pleased to learn that our Hauck Starjet burner, which was burning #2 fuel oil, could burn natural gas as well. In other words, our burner was already compatible.”

Key Benefits

- **Cost Savings** By replacing oil-based fuels with natural gas, customers can realize considerable savings. Some customers say they could not have been competitive with plants located on pipelines without CNG supply from NG Advantage.
- **Reduced Emissions** Customers can reduce their carbon footprint by upwards of 30% based on their original fuel source.
- **Reduced Maintenance** Customers can reduce their downtime caused by scheduled baghouse and burner maintenance.
- **Flexible Conditions** NG Advantage can work with customers to ensure they have what they need, even with a rapidly changing schedule.

For more information about NG Advantage and the “virtual pipeline” service, please email us at sales@ngadvantage.com.