

JEAN CONILLE: REBUILDING THE ENVIRONMENT IN HAITI

By Dr James Woodward

Known as philanthropist, entrepreneur and even 'freedom fighter', Jean CONILLE is continuing to move progress forward in Haiti as one of the world's leaders of the environmental industry. As the recent recipient of the prestigious 'International Economic Leadership Award of Washington, CONILLE has presented a well-organized review of actions with the intent to boost Haiti's economic structures and help to fight for a better life in his home country.



CONILLE is a civic figure that is well-known in his native Haiti and around the globe. His dedication has included countless hours, energy and funds in his effort to create a new way of economic leadership. CONILLE's goals include methods to advance the community and promote positive achievements. The International Diplomatic Institute (sponsored by the Heritage Foundation Group) is just one of the many acknowledgements for CONILLE, with the most notable from PADF.org, as one of the 'Top 10 Best Development Ideas From Members Of The Haitian Diaspora' for "Ecologically-friendly gas stations for public transport vehicles (tap-taps), empowering drivers to convert gasoline vehicles to propane.

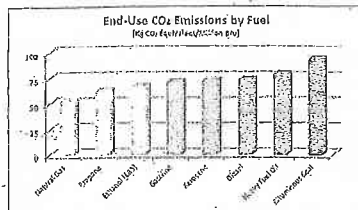
Jean Edouard Conille received *The International Economic Award 2017* for his diligent efforts for the protection of health due to air pollutants for Haitians, and as part of a worldwide platform. He has taken the topic of air toxins as a benchmark for attention as these contribute to pollution problems that affect ground-level ozone, haze, and acid rain which then cascades into health problems including allergies, asthma, skin and respiratory tract irritations and cancer.

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Changes must begin at the baseline, and CONILLE has committed to alterations that can change the world.

CONILLE continued his passion for helping to transition Haiti to new energy horizons in a meeting with TV station journalists. He explained his plan for the promotion of a vast environmental civic program that will introduce clean-burning energy in the transportation sector throughout Haiti. The use of propane emits virtually no air pollutants and when compared to other fuel sources, it assists in air quality improvement, reduces GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions and helps to protect the environment.

The stats for propane are undeniable. It is recognized for low emissions and has been identified as one of the cleanest and most versatile fuels. Through various studies, propane is shown to emit 26% fewer GHG's than gasoline for vehicle use, 38% fewer GHG's than fuel oil used in furnaces and a full half of the CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions of a charcoal barbecue. CONILLE makes use of the statistics as the baseline for his vision, indicating that when the full emission lifecycle is reviewed, the case for transition to propane becomes even stronger:



A REVOLUTIONARY PLAN

To put a plan in place, one must have years of study and results. The proof for propane as a common-sense alternative is clear. Burning propane produces lower levels of air toxins such as benzene and acetaldehyde, than either gasoline or diesel. It emits practically no soot as well as low hydrogen and nitrogen oxides, which are the precursors of ground-level ozone, or smog. With 60% less carbon monoxide (CO) than gasoline and 98% less particulate matter than diesel, propane contains virtually no Sulphur, which is a contributor to acid rain.

Jean Edouard explains:

"Propane is a smart environmental choice when it comes to such emissions, particularly when compared to natural gas, as it is not a greenhouse gas and has no impact on the atmosphere if accidentally released prior to combustion.

In the unlikely event of a leak, propane becomes a vapour that does not contaminate the soil, air or aquifers, unlike liquid fuels. Propane dissipates quickly into the atmosphere - a small amount of air movement is enough to disperse the vapour. This is especially important when operating in environmentally sensitive areas such as farms, nature reserves or by water."

CONILLE'S SOLUTION

Jean CONILLE has identified key elements that can help to catapult to opportunities of change. His solution is to offer a 'helping hand' for civic participation which can allow a transition in population expectations and create a win-win for everyone.

CONILLE believes that the 'problem of resistance to change a system results from different interconnected causes. It's connected to poverty of vision. Natural gas (methane) however, is a potent greenhouse gas in its unburnt state. Up to 5% of natural gas is inadvertently released during transmission, prior to use. This unburnt methane generates 25 times more greenhouse impact on the atmosphere than CO₂."

Changing the culture in Haiti involves education for the masses combined with opportunity to increase income and move people out of the poverty state.

The social and economic impact of this project is significant as it improves the livelihood of taxis drivers and their families and increases spending power, contributing to the economy at the lower end of the social pyramid.

Each Tap-Tap (taxis in Haiti) consumes approximately 5 gallons of gasoline per day. By converting to LPG, fuel costs are reduced by an average of USD\$10.00 per day amounting to annual average cost savings per vehicle of USD\$3,250. In a country where the average annual income per person is less than USD \$ 400.00, this represents a substantial amount.

Bringing new revenues for Haitian taxis drivers, letting propane play a vital role by lowering emissions in the largest transportation sector. It strengthens the infrastructure and provides a backup energy source for public facilities. Propane can be used in conjunction with renewable energy sources and lowers emissions thereby improving health in all areas that use fuel oil.

REMAKING A COUNTRY

As a voice of progress, Jean Edouard CONILLE has used his own company, Autogaz (Haiti) as the baseline for applying effectively proven modern solutions from countries with similar problems to Haiti. He has been relentless in his pursuit to reassure the international public opinion on the new environmental technologies and his firm belief in this progressive wave for Haiti. CONILLE stated:

"To remake the country we need to involve ourselves in managing its development. I believe in technology and I focus myself on environmental energy. Why propane technology? First, as a reliable and portable back-up energy source the attention is on Carbon Pricing! Where introduced, carbon

pricing works best when it is applied broadly and consistently across all sectors, with adjustment costs spread equitably and societal disruption minimized."

"Haiti was asleep but now we can work to wake up together and stand up for a better future. The time to change is now! A change in our mindset will allow us to enter the modern world. We need a country where the Haitian people will build a decent life for everybody, but we cannot allow ourselves to practice a policy based on bad attitudes.

We must plan every national mission in the framework of the place of collective leadership, to change the conditions of life in Haiti, protect our health, our environment and our future because the future is not yesterday or tomorrow, it is right now for the Haitian people!"

Dr James Woodward