

Committee on Environmental Protection
Thursday, June 6th, 2013
1:00PM

Testimony of Keith Kerman
Deputy Commissioner & Chief Fleet Officer
Department of Citywide Administrative Services

Thank you Council Chairman Gennaro and members of the Committee on Environmental Protection for allowing us to testify today in relation to the proposed preconsidered Intros governing emissions and fuel economy for fleet units of the City and also contractors in areas such as waste services, sight-seeing, and school transport. My name is Keith Kerman, the City's Chief Fleet Officer and a Deputy Commissioner at DCAS. I'm joined today by Rocky DiRico, DSNY, Deputy Commissioner for Support Services; Mark Aronberg, Assistant Fire Commissioner for Fleet Services; Gerry Kelpin, Director of Air and Noise Policy and Enforcement at DEP, and other representatives from City agencies including DOT and DCAS are also here today.

As you know, New York City's fleet is the greenest in the nation. The City currently operates 5,562 hybrid or all electric units. The most common units are the Toyota Prius (2,570) and Ford Hybrid Fusion Sedans and Escape SUVs (1,806). Our hybrid fleet also includes 49 hybrid diesel-electric trucks, with 35 more on order. We operate one of the nation's largest fleets using these now proven technologies.

The City also operates 612 plug-in electric vehicles and equipment units, including 103 Chevrolet Volts and 293 electric carts, a majority of which are operated by NYC Parks. We recently registered contracts for the plug in electric Ford Focus EV and Nissan Leaf EV. As Mayor Bloomberg presented in the State of the City address, our first order of 50 plug-in electric vehicles from these new contracts is now arriving. To support these plug in units, the City currently operates 117 EV charging stations for NYC Fleet units. By the end of the year, we will have added at least 30 more charging stations at agencies including Sanitation, Fire, DEP, Parks, NYPD, and DCAS.

The New York City fleet is also a national leader in biodiesel use and has been working over the last eight years to introduce, test, train, promote, and expand the use of biodiesel in our complex and varied fleet.

New York City operates over 9,000 diesel fleet units and equipment pieces. All of these operate on ultra-low sulfur diesel as required by Local Law 39 of 2005. Currently, over 70% of diesel fuel used by the City fleet is also blended with biodiesel.

The City uses both B5, which is ultra low sulfur diesel blended with 5% pure biodiesel, and B20, which is ultra low sulfur diesel blended with 20% pure biodiesel. The City does not use B10 blends currently. By the end of the year, we expect that over 90% of the diesel fuel used by the City fleet will be blended with biodiesel. In addition, in 2013, Fleet units from Parks, DSNY, DEP and DOT are transitioning to B20 use during the warmer weather months. As we speak, over 80% of Sanitation and Parks trucks are operating on B20.

NYC Fleet has partnered closely on these efforts with the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) which recognized the City nationally in 2011 with its Influence Award for biodiesel leadership. Just two weeks ago, NBB helped train 200 City mechanics in biodiesel equipment maintenance. Each mechanic will be able to attain a National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification in this area.

In addition to using biodiesel, the City is cleaning emissions directly at the tailpipe. Since the passing of the current fleet local laws in 2005, the City has retrofitted over 2,500 diesel fleet vehicles with diesel emissions reducing equipment.

In total, 41% of the City fleet, over 10,000 vehicles, employs at least one type of alternative fuel or emissions reducing technology. Thanks to these investments, from FY11 to FY12 alone, the City fleet reduced total fuel use by 2.1 million gallons or 7%, from 30 million total gallons to under 28 million gallons. Since 2002, the City has invested \$400 million in sustainable fleet equipment and fuel technology.

The existing Local Laws governing fleet and fuel procurement have been critical drivers of the City's success and leadership in fleet sustainability, and we appreciate the opportunity to work with the City Council to further advance and strengthen these laws. As we do, we want to ensure that the City maintains a reliable and well-functioning fleet serving the public in essential areas including

waste removal, snow plowing, public space and beach maintenance, waste water and sewer operations, and street paving.

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