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TRUCK FLEETS PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AT HTUF FORUM

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On April 16 New York City Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia kicked off the Northeast Regional High Efficiency Truck Forum (HTUF) at the Queens Theater in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Organized by Calstart in partnership with City agencies including DCAS, DSNY, DPR, and DOT, the forum brought together private and public fleets, equipment and fuels suppliers, and government agencies to discuss progress in achieving more sustainable truck and commercial fleet operations.

Sanitation has the City's largest truck fleet and Commissioner Garcia discussed their progress in reducing truck emissions through biodiesel, electric, and hybrid technologies, and challenged everyone to continue progress in this area. Commissioner Garcia also noted the growing leadership of fleets throughout New York and the Northeast in implementing sustainable solutions.

Conference participants heard from some of those fleets including Time Warner Cable, Waste Management, Ferrara Brothers Concrete, and MTA Buses. NYSERDA, NYPA, the Northeast Diesel Collaborative, Empire Clean Cities, and many more also participated in the day long forum and the afternoon ride and drive at World's Fair Marina.

A number of important themes emerged in the conference, including:

- The importance of training and engagement for operators and technicians in implementing sustainable solutions.
- The practical importance of finding enthusiastic and committed users to pilot new approaches first.
- The need for government support and grant programs to help get new technologies launched and piloted.
- The important role that straightforward steps like good vehicle maintenance and reducing truck weight can play in reducing fuel use and emissions.
- The importance of service reliability if alternative fuels and vehicle designs are to be successful.
- The need to develop more infrastructure if solutions including compressed natural gas and electric charging are to become widespread.



Conference attendees also heard a lot of success stories. Ferrara Brothers told a compelling story of their introduction of CNG trucks for their business operations within New York City and of the improvements in service reliability and maintenance which have resulted. Time Warner and Waste Management have even larger fleets than New York City and, like us, are pursuing the greening of their fleets on multiple fronts.



Diesel trucks and equipment constitute 38% of New York City's fleet but use 57% of our fuel supplies annually. Hybrid and electric cars receive most of the attention in discussions of fleet sustainability. The advances in trucking however including hybrid diesel and electric systems, biodiesel, natural gas, improved vehicle design, tailpipe exhaust capture, and anti-idling devices are essential if we are to achieve major sustainable gains in transportation.

Thanks to everyone for making this conference a major success. Special thanks to Parks for hosting and see you all again in Flushing Meadows Corona Park for the 26th Annual Fleet Show on May 22.