

NYC's Plow and Emergency Trucks Powered by Renewable Fuel

By Keith T. Kerman



In the past month, the city's diesel plows, salt spreaders, and emergency response trucks have travelled over 4.6 million miles, helping the city recover from two major storms as well as an extended cold streak. Hundreds of off-road pieces like snow melters, front end loaders, skid steer loaders, and gators, are being used to support the snow and ice removal efforts.

During this entire response, the city's truck and off-road fleet has been powered completely by renewable diesel (RD) fuel. On February 25, the New York City Council Environmental Protection Committee, chaired by Queens Council Member James Gennaro, held a [hearing](#) to discuss the city's use of renewable diesel fuel in transportation and its potential as an alternative heating oil.

The long-term goal for DCAS Fleet is to electrify the city fleet, as outlined in [Local Law 140](#). DCAS now operates the largest electric and hybrid fleets and EV charging networks in New York State.

However, there is currently no viable way to plow with electric trucks due to the heavy amount of power that plowing requires. The fleet uses over 3,000 assets in its plow and salting operations. There are also limitations to electric options in other emergency and specialized fleet areas.

Renewable diesel is not a fossil fuel. It is produced from waste and farm products, including used cooking oil, waste animal fats, soybean oil, and corn oil. Through the production process, renewable diesel can reduce greenhouse gases dramatically, helping to meet the city's greenhouse gas reduction goals. It can also achieve reductions in harmful air quality emissions.



The city has used biodiesel for transportation and heating oil for nearly two decades, as required by local and state law. Due to how it is manufactured, biodiesel is usually limited to 5 to 20 percent of fuel use. Renewable diesel is manufactured to the same specifications as regular diesel and can completely replace fossil diesel use.

Most dramatically for our thousands of city commercial drivers and mechanics, the fuel has no harmful and foul odor. Fossil diesel fuel contains aromatics like benzene, which are both foul-smelling and carcinogenic. They can cause cancer through prolonged exposure. Renewable diesel has no smell and removes these aromatics. The renewable diesel implementation is one of the city’s most important workplace health and safety initiatives.

In addition to the city fleet, the DOT Staten Island Ferry has been powered completely by renewable diesel since June 2025. In total, the city fleet has now used over 44 million gallons of renewable diesel successfully, making it the largest program east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States. By comparison, the State of California is the nation’s largest user of renewable diesel.

Learn more about the city fleet program [here](#).

NYC Fleet	
Total Renewable Diesel Use	
Agency	Gallons
DSNY	24,015,342
FDNY	6,501,396
DOT	3,725,688
Parks	1,380,329
NYPD	1,099,126
DEP	865,272
DOC	673,711
DCAS	27,360
DOT Staten Island Ferry	4,863,445
DEP Marine	104,209
FDNY Harbor	6,565
NYPD Harbor	6,414
Demonstration Project	956,882
Total	44,225,739



This show highlights vendors who support the New York City's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives, and daily operations. Vendors will offer a wide array of products to improve vehicle safety. The show will also highlight vehicles and equipment with alternative fuels and emissions-reducing technologies, along with the latest in light and heavy-duty vehicles, trucks, horticultural equipment, tools, fleet services, and more!

Thursday,
May 21, 2026
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Accessibility Questions?
Contact DCAS Accessibility
at 212-386-0256, or email
accessibility@dcas.nyc.gov
by May 6, 2025



<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcas/agencies/nyc-fleet-upcoming-events.page>

37th Annual Equipment & Vehicle Show

Flushing Meadows Corona Park
(by the Unisphere), Queens, NY





[Rate Your Plate Nutrition Campaign | Starts March 9](#): March is National Nutrition Month with WorkWell NYC's Rate Your Plate Nutrition Campaign!

For 10 days, you'll get nutrition info, trivia, and tips for healthy eating.

Learn how to serve up a balanced meal like a pro! [Register here](#).

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 524, February 19, 2026](#): Fleet Sustainability in Action, Local Law 75 Report

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 523, February 12, 2026](#): Fleet Spotlight: Central Park Medical Unit (CPMU)

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 522, February 5, 2025](#): DSNY and Fleet Agencies Tackle Largest Winter Storm in Years

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