

DCAS Partners With American Lung Association on Biofuels Training

By: Keith Kerman

In 2005, the City's fleet began the use of biodiesel fuel in City trucks at the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. Since then, biodiesel use has been adopted for all fleet units and is also used in all heating oil systems in NYC, public and private. NYC has passed local laws requiring biodiesel use in City fleet units and government and private buildings.



NYC Department of Parks and Recreation garbage truck powered by biodiesel and a hybrid electric drive train.

Most recently, [New York state mandated biodiesel in heating oil statewide](#), starting at 5% of fuel use in 2002 and going to 20% in 2030.

Since fiscal year 2013, NYC government operations have used 416 million gallons of fuel blended with biodiesel. In 2018, DCAS implemented a nearly 1 million gallon demonstration project for renewable diesel (RD) which can be used up to 100%, replacing fossil diesel completely. DCAS is working on a long-term renewable diesel contract now. Biodiesel and renewable diesel can serve as cleaner and more sustainable fuel alternatives while we work to electrify our fleet and buildings long term. As DCAS reviewed in its [first Clean Fleet Transition Plan](#), many segments of the trucking and off-road fleets will likely rely on diesel fuel for an extended period in the future. DCAS is also piloting biotires, as a way to reduce tire emissions.

| NYC Government Use of Biodiesel Blends | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year | Blended Gallons for Government Buildings | Blended Gallons for Government Fleet | Total |
| 13 | 31,736,530 | 11,925,594 | 43,662,124 |
| 14 | 35,457,127 | 14,080,534 | 49,537,661 |
| 15 | 35,554,585 | 15,597,826 | 51,152,411 |
| 16 | 22,669,030 | 15,281,204 | 37,950,234 |
| 17 | 23,792,071 | 15,780,318 | 39,572,389 |
| 18 | 27,412,541 | 15,698,806 | 43,111,347 |
| 19 | 25,955,047 | 14,596,581 | 40,551,628 |
| 20 | 20,354,876 | 13,305,898 | 33,660,774 |
| 21 | 23,145,725 | 13,792,271 | 36,937,996 |
| 22 | 25,699,426 | 14,219,288 | 39,918,714 |
| Total | 271,776,958 | 144,278,320 | 416,055,278 |

Total Biodiesel Blends Fuels used by NYC Government Operations since FY13.

As New York state and NYC continue the adoption of biogenic fuels, DCAS Fleet is pleased to announce a partnership with the [American Lung Association](#) to provide City of New York mechanics, fleet staff, and operators with a [free online certificate training program](#) about the operation and benefits of biobased fleet products through Biobased Academy. Biobased Academy is a partnership between the American Lung Association’s Department of Clean Air Initiatives and the United Soybean Board. The Biobased Certified Fleet Professional course, the first course offered under the program, launched in the Fall of 2022.

“The American Lung Association is proud to offer this comprehensive training program to educate professionals on the operational, health, safety, and environmental benefits of biobased alternatives,” said ALA Director of Clean Air Initiatives Bailey Arnold. “Implementing biobased products is an easy way to complement existing carbon reduction strategies while protecting the overall health of employees, communities, and the environment.”



American Lung Association Biobased Academy Program.

[The training](#) reviews the environmental benefits, safe handling, operations, and varieties of biobased solutions. The training also reviews various case studies of biogenic fuel implementation throughout the country, including in NYC. NYC and the National Biodiesel Board, now the Clean Fuels Alliance America implemented a similar in-person program in 2013 for City mechanics.

The training takes approximately five to six hours in total and can be done in segments at the pace of the participant. Participants who complete the training and tests that are part of each of the 12 sections will receive a certificate qualifying them as biofuel certified.

City of New York staff can [take the course](#) for free using the code USB22.

Thanks to the American Lung Association and the United Soybean Board for their partnership on this training.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

Fleet Vision International: The Show

The 2023 [Fleet Vision International: The Show](#) will take place on April 26 and April 27 in London. Registration link, speakers, and full agenda will be posted soon.



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, when interacting with others in close quarters such as within a vehicle, it is strongly recommended to wear a mask.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 410, November 9, 2022](#): Vision Zero Dusk and Darkness: Recognizing the Safety Risks of Night Driving

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 409, November 4, 2022](#): DCAS and U.S. DOT Volpe Issue First Clean Fleet Transition Plan

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 408, October 28, 2022](#): Our 7th Vision Zero Fleet Forum

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 407, October 14, 2022](#): Reducing Risk While Driving

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 406, September 30, 2022](#): Fleet Spotlight: Reggie Cooper, Ensuring the Quality of Our Fleet

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