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OCTOBER 21, 2016

ISSUE 158

MAYOR DE BLASIO SIGNS MAJOR BIOHEAT LAW

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On October 18, Mayor de Blasio signed Intro 642-A which expands the use of bioheat in all buildings, public and private, in New York City. This is now the largest bioheat mandate in the United States. The law was sponsored by Costa Constantinides, Chair of the Council's Environmental Protection Committee.

Under the law, all buildings in NYC will use increasing blends of biodiesel up to twenty percent (B20). Currently, Local Law 43 of 2010 requires blends of 2 percent biodiesel (B2). The new law requires use of 5% biodiesel starting October 1, 2017. Biodiesel in heating oil then increases to 10% starting October 1, 2025; 15%, starting October 1, 2030 and 20% starting October 1, 2034.



The law exempts emergency generators and requires

only B5 for oil tanks that serve as backups to natural gas powered facilities, called interruptible sites. The law also requires only B5 for D4 blends of diesel since D4 is on a separate path to be phased out. The law includes waiver provisions tied to burner specifications, available fuel supply, and cost, and also provides a pathway to introduce other types of renewable diesel as technology in this area further develops.

Buildings account for a majority of greenhouse gas emissions in NYC and this law is an important step to achieving the goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% by 2050 as part of Mayor de Blasio's One NYC Plan. As per the Federal EPA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), biodiesel can achieve from 60% to 80% percent reduction in GHG emissions as well as reductions in harmful air quality emissions such as sulfur, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. Biodiesel is also a renewable fuel, not a fossil fuel, with a growing number of domestic suppliers including farmers across the United States and recyclers right here in NYC. Fully implemented, this law would be the carbon equivalent of eliminating 166,000 vehicles from the roads of NYC daily.

NYC fleet and building operations have been among the world's leaders in biodiesel implementation. City agencies, starting with Parks and then Sanitation, began using biodiesel in fleet vehicles in 2005. Today, all City trucks use biodiesel in blends of B5, B10 and B20 including emergency services.

New York City government operations have also led in bioheat implementation, the focus of this week's law. Since FY13, City buildings and garages have used over 135 million gallons of bioheat and are already using five percent blends, B5, for all buildings and facilities. Led by Parks and DCAS, the City has also taken early steps using B10 and B20 and has already successfully used over 5.5 million gallons of B10 and B20 blends.

DCAS specifies and bids all fuels for City government operations. We look forward to implementing this law, ahead of schedule, with City agencies and appreciate the support of the administration, our sister agencies, OMB, DCAS Procurement, Mayor's Office of Sustainability, Law, and of our fuel suppliers.

Special thanks and welcome to the new Deputy Commissioner for Energy at DCAS Anthony Fiore who played a big role in the new law; and also Gerry Kelpin and Richard Muller at DEP, Sherry Lee and Ramona Ledesma-Garrido at DCAS Fleet, Cathy Pasion at Sustainability, and Nick Howie at City Legislative Affairs.