

Parks Invests in Hybrid Vans

By: Keith Kerman

NYC operates 5,485 hybrid electric vehicles and another 2,147 electric plug in and solar fleet units including off-road.

We have made tremendous progress in Mayor de Blasio's NYC Clean Fleet effort. Still, the vast majority of vehicles designed for alternative fuel use in the fleet marketplace are sedans and SUVs, Class 1 light duty vehicles.

NYC Fleet also includes 5,400 vans and pickups and 12,300 total on-road medium and heavy duty vehicles. It is critical that viable and effective alternative fuel and electric plug in options develop in these areas.

NYC Fleet has announced partnerships recently including with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Calstart to support development of electric truck options nationally and worldwide.

NYC Parks made a start in FY18, introducing our first 27 hybrid passenger vans. The vans use the XL hybrid system with 22 Chevy Express Vans and 5 Ford Transit vans. The XL system, which was retrofitted on the vans, uses regenerative braking to achieve fuel efficiency. Braking and accelerating are among the most fuel intensive vehicle operations. With the hybrids, the electric motor and hybrid battery help slow and speed up the van, reducing demands on the gas engine.

XL reports 33% fuel improvement from the first 100,000 miles with the Parks vehicles. DCAS will be working with Parks on regular assessments of these units. These 27 hybrid gas-electric vans join 168 hybrid diesel-electric units that Fleet introduced years ago at agencies including DSNY, DOT and Parks. More recently, FDNY has also implemented hybrid and plug in systems on 300 ambulances, which are F550 trucks. Fleet will continue to aggressively seek these type of alternative technologies, while also carefully monitoring how the systems fare in actual operations.

In the last decade, biofuels and tailpipe emissions traps have been fleet's most prevalent strategies for reducing truck emissions. As we grow those efforts even further, we also want to



see hybrid and electric options for trucks become as common as they are for light duty. Thanks to Parks for taking one more step on the way.

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