

Renewable Diesel Coming To NYC Ferry Operations

By Keith T. Kerman



On October 3, Mayor Adams [announced](#) that DCAS has completed the rollout of renewable diesel to City's Fleet trucks and off-road equipment. Over 16 million gallons have been successfully used since September 2023.

This week, DCAS Commissioner Louis A. Molina, DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, and New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President & CEO Andrew Kimball [announced](#) that renewable diesel will be coming to the Staten Island Ferries and the NYC Ferry managed by EDC.

The Staten Island Ferry is the busiest municipal ferry service in the country, with approximately 45,000 passengers on an average weekday, carrying nearly 24

million passengers each year. It operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, between Staten Island and Lower Manhattan.

The NYC Ferry system provides more than seven million riders annually with safe, dependable, affordable, and accessible transit across the five boroughs. With six routes that touch every borough, 25 landings, and 38 vessels, the system spans 70 nautical miles and has the largest passenger-only fleet in the nation.

Together, these vessels can use 8.5 to 9 million gallon of fuel per year. Renewable diesel can replace entirely the fossil diesel fuel currently employed, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60% or more. Renewable diesel will also reduce air quality emissions and make for more pleasant rides for all the riders. Unlike fossil diesel, renewable diesel does not have a foul odor.

DCAS has partnered with NYC DOT to test renewable diesel on the Staten Island Ferry since November 2023. These tests have been successful and DCAS will be extending its vehicle fleet program to the Staten Island ferries. DCAS will also be bidding a new barge contract for this purpose in the upcoming weeks.

NYC EDC procures fuel directly for the New York City commuter ferries and will be initiating its own piloting process for renewable diesel. DCAS and EDC have been discussing this initiative at various stages over the last five years. In addition to renewable diesel, NYCEDC and NYC Ferry will begin the process of upgrading 13 350-passenger vessels, the system's largest vessels, to meet the EPA's most stringent Tier IV emission standards. Combined, these efforts will greatly reduce vessel emissions.

If all goes successfully, both DOT and EDC will aim for a full switch out of fossil diesel with renewable diesel by the close of FY26.

Special thanks to Harris Kaplan, Executive Director of Fleet Operations at DCAS, and Captain John Garvey of NYC DOT who have spearheaded this initiative. Thanks also to DOT First Deputy Commissioner Margaret Forgione, Deputy Commissioner Paul Ochoa, Senior Port Engineer Brad Hopper, Fuel Facility Supervisor Karim ElGallad, and the team of marine oilers and tankerman at the SI Ferry. At DCAS, thanks to Deputy ACCO Masha Rudina, BQA Director Dan Calles, Alvin Pettway, Jose Cajas, Andy Wong, and our partners at Argus Media who have established a new fuel reporting index for renewable diesel. At EDC, thanks to Niko Martecchini, Vice President Fleet Manager NYC Ferry and Luke Herbermann, Fleet & Facilities.



The City and its union offer **free** flu shots to municipal employees and their families. All employees, dependents, and pre-Medicare retirees eligible for New York City health benefits are covered to receive a flu vaccination at no cost. For information about how you can **fight the flu with free and convenient flu shots**, visit:

on.nyc.gov/wnnycflu

VISION ZERO

Building a Safer City



Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

DCAS and Together for Safer Roads invite you to the 2024 Vision Zero Fleet Safety Forum!

The event will bring together leading stakeholders from public and private fleets, innovative safety technology companies, policy experts, and road safety advocates for an exciting day of speeches, panel discussions, and breakout sessions.

Join us as we discuss how to systematically build safety into our roads, vehicles, and fleet operations.

The event is free and includes breakfast and a networking lunch.

Event Schedule:

Networking
breakfast begins:

7:30 a.m.

Program begins:

8:30 a.m.



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10 Years of Vision Zero: Part 5 - Leading by Example



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Week in Review | October 13 - October 19



- We brought many of your agencies together for "[Operation Restore Roosevelt](#)" to crack down on crime and quality-of-life issues on Roosevelt Avenue in Queens.
- After winning an important extension of the 421-A tax incentive in Albany, we now have [71,000 new homes in the pipeline](#) to be built.
- The first section of the [East Side Coastal Resiliency was completed under budget and ahead of schedule](#). It's an important piece of protecting Manhattan from storm surge.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 473, October 11, 2024:](#) Fleet Spotlight: The Murphy Brothers, Patrick and Tim; FDNY, DEP, and Parks

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 472, October 4, 2024:](#) DCAS Completes Renewable Diesel Rollout for Trucks and Off-Road Equipment

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 471, September 20, 2024:](#) Fleet Updates: NY State Inspection Program

NYC Fleet Newsletter 470, September 13, 2024: Fleet Spotlight: Muhammad Nadeem, Fleet Services

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