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**Stacey Cumberbatch, DCAS Commissioner**  
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## THE STREETS AND FLEETS OF SAN FRANCISCO

*KEITH T. KERMAN*

On October 7, 2014 the Bay Area Clean Cities coalition hosted a Biodiesel Summit at the Main Library in San Francisco, California. NYC was asked to present on the City's fleet and facility efforts along with Christina Ficicchia of Empire Clean Cities who also made the trip. Sponsored by the US Department of Energy, Clean Cities is a network of over 100 coalitions nationwide that promote alternative fuel vehicles and fleet sustainability. Empire Clean Cities has had a long and successful partnership with NYC fleet agencies and the Alternative Fuels Unit at NYC DOT.

The program for the Biodiesel Summit included representatives from the San Francisco Mayor's Office, the California Biodiesel Association, the National Biodiesel Board, the Renewable Energy Group (REG), and fleet managers from the City's of San Francisco and San Jose in California.

Like New York City, San Francisco and San Jose have prioritized fleet sustainability with biodiesel use being an important part of their efforts. San Francisco operates over 6,000 fleet units serving 70 separate departments. Biodiesel (B5 or B20) is required for all diesel equipment including emergency services. In fact, every City diesel fleet unit is especially branded with a San Francisco biodiesel label.



Marty Mellera, Sustainability Manager for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, also spoke about the City's highly effective use of biodiesel (B20) for many years in the agency's 500 public transport buses. Like many NYC fleet pieces, San Francisco City busses combine hybrid electric and biodiesel use.

Don Scott of the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) described the enormous increase in biodiesel use in the United States. In 2005, when NYC Parks began piloting biodiesel for its fleet, less than 100 million gallons of biodiesel was produced in the United States. Only eight years later, in 2013, over 1.7 billion gallons was produced, with mandates for biodiesel use throughout the country including in New York City for fleet and buildings. Don discussed multiple national studies which credit biodiesel use with nearly 80% or greater reduction of greenhouse gasses (GHG). Don also made an interesting point that plant based biodiesel is effectively a way to access solar energy stored in seeds.



Like NYC, San Francisco is also investing in electric and hybrid vehicles, and looking to increase car share. We appreciated the chance to share efforts and build bridges with one of the cities, along with NYC, most on the forefront of fleet sustainability. Thanks to Bill Zeller and Sharon Huff of San Francisco Clean Cities for organizing the conference, and to everyone who participated.