

**Renewable Diesel Powers Fleet In Summer 2018**

*By: Keith Kerman*

This week, DCAS and the major fleet agencies completed a first demonstration use of renewable diesel (RD). This summer, City agencies replaced 950,000 gallons of regular diesel fuel with the advanced biofuel. DCAS announced this in a [press release](#), which also highlights plans to expand the use of renewable diesel.

Since 2005, NYC Fleet agencies, beginning with Parks and DSNY, have used biodiesel in fleet operations. Blends of five to twenty percent biodiesel are now used in all fleet fuel at all agencies, including emergency services.

Biofuels are not fossil fuels. They are produced from organic and farm feed-stocks and greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air quality emissions from vehicles, especially when used in conjunction with federally required diesel particulate filters (DPFs), which NYC Fleet employs.

NYC Clean Fleet: Renewable Diesel (RD) Implementation, 2018						
Agency	BRONX	BROOKLYN	MANHATTAN	QUEENS	STATEN ISLAND	TOTAL (GALLONS)
CORRECTION				8,700		8,700
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		12,300	4,600	22,797		39,697
PARKS AND RECREATION	41,300	26,950	50,905	42,300	14,282	175,737
SANITATION	139,119	142,012	83,500	185,170	120,502	670,303
TRANSPORTATION	4,700					4,700
NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT	3,400	4,700	1,000	24,600	1,500	35,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188,519</b>	<b>185,962</b>	<b>140,005</b>	<b>283,567</b>	<b>136,284</b>	<b>934,337</b>

Biodiesel is produced mostly from soybean oil and is manufactured to ASTM D6751 which is specific to biodiesel. Biodiesel has water content and other attributes that make its use easiest at blends of 20 percent or less.

Renewable diesel (RD) also comes from feedstocks such as animal fat, tallow, and soybean, but is manufactured to the ASTM specification for regular diesel fuel D975. RD is produced to operate within trucks and underground fuel tanks comparably to regular diesel, enabling a full replacement of diesel fuel as opposed to a blend.

DCAS finalized a demonstration contract in April 2018 to introduce RD and test its operational capacities. The fuel in the demonstration contract was supplied by REG which reports the fuel was 100% sourced from animal fat and achieved a 65% reduction in carbon emissions. The fuel was distributed by the City’s current diesel contract holder Sprague Energy.

This demonstration project alone constitutes a 25% increase in total annual biofuels use for City fleet and buildings in any normal year, and a 45% increase in biofuels use for the City fleet alone. This project does not stop there. As part of the demonstration, DCAS will prepare a report on the initial implementation and is taking steps to bid a long term citywide requirements contract for renewable diesel, to be used in combination with biodiesel, as required by Local Law 73 of 2013.

Thanks to all the participating agencies, especially DSNY and Parks, DCAS Procurement, Law, and Quality Assurance, the vendors, and everyone who supported this project, one of our most critical as part of Mayor de Blasio's NYC Clean Fleet plan. We look forward to further updates as we continue this initiative in FY19.

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