



**For Immediate Release**

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## **CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND EDISON HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATE NEW SOLAR CARPORT FOR QUEENS DRIVER'S EDUCATION STUDENTS**

*Carport to provide off the grid power for electric vehicles used by students learning to drive*

**NEW YORK** - The Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) announced an expansion of its partnership with Edison High School today at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new free-standing solar carport at 165-65 84th Avenue, Jamaica. The carport is not connected to the grid, and will use solar power to fully charge two electric cars used in Edison High School's driver's education program. As part of the Agency's commitment to resiliency, DCAS provided the school with a solar carport and the electric vehicles so that students will not only learn how to drive – but will also learn about cleaner transportation alternatives - helping us make New York a cleaner and more sustainable City!

DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo was joined at the ceremony by Edison High School Principal Moses A. Ojeda, Career and Technical Education Coordinator Navindra Haripersaud and more than twenty students.

NYC operates the largest municipal fleet in North America with over 30,000 vehicles. Through Mayor de Blasio's NYC Clean Fleet sustainability efforts, this fleet is also one of the largest alternative fuel fleets in the world, with 1,030 on-road electric vehicles and over 17,000 units that use alternative fuels including biodiesel, natural gas, electric and solar.

“NYC Fleet is a world leader in fleet sustainability and is leading a transition to zero emission and sustainable fleet operations,” said **DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo**. “There is no better example of the future we want to build than today, at Thomas Edison High School in Queens, with our drivers of tomorrow starting out in all electric vehicles, powered by the sun.”

“I am excited about this expanded partnership between the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and Thomas Edison High School, which will help our students learn about solar energy and sustainability. When our city agencies and schools work together, our students benefit,” said **Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña**.

“DCAS and the Department of Education are partnering in exciting ways to support automotive education including hands-on internships, equipment for technical training, and developing pathways for full time employment,” said **NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman**. “Today we announce a great extension of that partnership with a new generation of high school students learning to drive electric vehicles powered by the sun, and free from fossil fuels.”

“Our partnership with DCAS has created new innovation pathways in STEM and a tremendous amount of workforce capital at Thomas Edison CTE HS. Considering that advances in energy efficiency and technology spurs innovation with global impact, we are now fortunate enough to be at the forefront with cost efficient electric cars, solar powered charging stations and advanced computer electrical tools in the hands of our students, all while promoting a clean and healthy environment,” **Principal Moses A. Ojeda**

“Keeping up to date with technology is imperative for all CTE teachers and students. Our electric cars and solar powered charging station allow our students to work hands-on with some of the latest technology introduced in the automotive industry.” **CTE Coordinator Navindra Haripersaud**

**Council Member Costa Constantinides, Chair of the Council’s Environmental Protection Committee**, said, “As we move closer toward our goal of reducing carbon emissions 80% by 2050, we should explore a variety of renewable energy solutions including electric and solar. This solar carport provides a low-emissions alternative to standard vehicles. It will also help build sustainable habits among students learning to drive and expose them to sustainable travel options early in life. Thank you to DCAS Commissioner Camilo and Edison H.S. Principal Ojeda for their partnership on this innovative project.”

DCAS has provided a total of seven high schools with electric cars for driver’s education classes. The agency has also assigned another 19 vehicles for use in high-school automotive shops. In addition to the carport at Edison High School, New York City will roll out 30 more solar carports to power the City’s fleet in 2017.

*About DCAS:*

*The [Department of Citywide Administrative Services](#) (DCAS) ensures that all City agencies have the critical resources and support needed to provide the best possible services to the public. We do this in part, through working with City agencies with needs in recruiting, hiring and training; providing facilities management for 55 public buildings; purchasing, selling and leasing city property; purchasing over \$1 billion in supplies and equipment annually; and implementing conservation programs throughout City facilities. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).*