

## Let's Talk About Electric Vehicles

By: Keith T. Kerman

Electric vehicles (EVs) are here, and they are here to stay. We have seen tremendous growth in EV adoption and investment in just the last few years in our fleet, city, state and country.

That said, most vehicles out on the roads today remain gas or diesel, and most drivers still have limited personal experience with electric vehicles.

For many years, DCAS has partnered with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to host summer fellows at DCAS to work on electric vehicle initiatives. One of the projects for this year's fellow, Lily Edelman-Gold from Middlebury Institute of International Studies, was to develop a *Let's Talk About EVs* training initiative to help fleet operators better understand and use their new electric vehicles. [This training deck](#), was first presented this week at our regular inter-agency fleet management meeting, called the NYC Fleet Federation.

### City of New York Fleet EV Charging Tips

#### **1** Charge Early Charge Often

Don't wait until the battery is low to recharge. Instead, *top off* when you can. Even if it's for 5-10 minutes.

#### **2** Unplug When At 80%

After 80%, the battery starts charging more slowly to protect its lifespan. It's a more efficient use of your time to unplug at 80% and charge slightly more often.

#### **3** Stick to Level 2 if Possible

Especially if you have overnight charging capabilities. Fast charging is great if you're in a hurry, but Level 2 is better for overall battery health.

#### **4** Avoid Extreme Temperatures

Park in the shade when it's sunny and in the sun when it's cold. The battery's charge will last longer if it avoids extreme temps.

#### **5** Regenerative Breaking Extends Range

Recharge the battery a little every time you slow down!

#### **6** Instant Torque = Lightning-fast Acceleration

Be Careful. EVs boast faster 0-60 mph times than gas cars; so don't floor it. Drive slowly, stay safe.

**These are among the questions that our presentation seeks to clarify:**

- What's the difference between the internal combustion engine and a battery electric vehicle? (Zero emissions)
- Why does it take so long to charge the last 20% for an electric battery? (Battery chemistry)
- How can you use the accelerator pedal on an electric vehicle to slow it down? (Regenerative braking)
- How large is the EV battery on my vehicle? (Anywhere from 12 KWH to 115 KWH)
- What are the different types of EV charging cords? (CHADdeMO, CCS, NACS)
- Why does an EV accelerate so fast? (Instant torque)
- Are EVs really lower maintenance? (Yes)
- Do electric vehicle batteries catch on fire more than fuel engines? (No)
- Which is better long term for the EV battery slow or fast charging? (Slow)

EVs offer clean, no emission, quiet and reliable transportation. Charging is a lot better than fueling up. There is, however, a lot to learn for operators about electric batteries, EV driving and EV charging as we make this critical transition.

Please take some time to review the training presentation which DCAS and fleet agencies will use as part of additional EV training and orientation efforts for fleet operators. Thanks to the DCAS Fleet Sustainability team, Lily and EDF for developing this training.

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## **NYC Fleet Manual**

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

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New York City Vision Zero Fleet Forum

# VISION ZERO

## Building a Safer City

This year's New York City Vision Zero Fleet Forum will be held on Thursday November 2, at the Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows Corona Park

This annual event co-hosted this year by *Together for Safer Roads* will highlight the power and promise of building partnerships to solve our nation's roadway safety crisis, the safe system approach, and how vehicle design and technology plays a vital role in saving lives.

[View the event flyer](#) to learn more. Updated information like the event agenda and registration links will be posted on the DCAS Fleet Management webpage in the coming weeks. You can also [email fleet](#) for more information.



### Hear from Eric

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### Week In Review: August 20 - August 26

Mayor Adams visits Israel to deepen our cultural bonds and New York City celebrates Ukraine, Arab American communities and more this week!



## Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 433, August 17, 2023](#): Celebrating the 2023 High School Automotive Summer Interns

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 432, August 9, 2023](#): DCAS Rolls Out Over 300 Electric Vans

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 431, August 3, 2023](#): Fleet Spotlight: Mark Aronberg, FDNY Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 430, July 17, 2023](#): DCAS Surpasses 200 EV Fast Chargers and Partners With the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) To Develop *Faster* Fast Chargers

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