

NYC's New Fleet of Solar Light Towers

By: Keith T. Kerman

In December 2017, DCAS announced the completion of its first long-term contract for solar-electric portable light towers. As we begin a busy spring season, we now have our first 55 solar units in operation Citywide.

NYC operates nearly 600 portable light towers to help us light up areas for outdoor special events, security needs, late night road repairs, or during power outages and storm emergencies. These units are critical security and emergency assets and DCAS has led an effort, post-Hurricane Sandy, to increase our resources for this type of equipment.

In the past, our only option was to procure diesel light towers. These use a lot of fuel, are high maintenance, noisy, and must be manually turned on and off with each use. Our new solar-electric light towers offer the chance to change all that. The solar panels charge electric batteries during the day, enabling zero emission lighting at night. The units are silent, low maintenance, use improved LED lighting, and can be programmed to turn on and off remotely. The units offer the prospect of zero emissions and vastly reduced maintenance costs. As a contingency, we have procured some units with backup emergency fuel tanks in case of extended emergency operations.

With the support of DCAS, the Parks Department has led the implementation with 40 units now in operation. NYPD, which helped develop the contract specifications, has introduced four units, the Department of Transportation has five, and the Department of Sanitation has six initial units.

We will be following the progress of these units closely as they enter their first full year of use. We look forward to further transforming this aspect of our off-road operations to zero emission, sustainable technologies.



A Special Congrats to Warren Deitz at NYC Parks

Speaking of NYC Parks, a special shout-out from DCAS Fleet, especially the ex-Parkies, to Warren Deitz, soon to retire after 45 years of dedicated park supervision and commitment to NYC public spaces. Park supervisors are on the front lines, ensuring all New Yorkers have clean and safe park spaces to recreate, exercise, and escape the daily bustle. With all he's accomplished in an extraordinarily long public service career, Warren also had a special commitment and focus on safe driving and maintaining a crash-free career. With everything the City is doing to advance Vision Zero, drivers like Warren are still the key to keeping our roads, and parks, safe. His son John will maintain the family legacy at Parks. Many thanks and congratulations.



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