

## NYC Fleet Implements Biotire Project

By: Keith T. Kerman

In the last few newsletters, we've focused on fleet sustainability, discussing our efforts to reduce the volume of liquid fuel we pour into gas tanks each year. The manufacture and operation of vehicles also greatly impacts sustainability.

Did you know that it takes approximately seven gallons of fuel to produce a single vehicle tire? In the United States alone, there were 331 million tires sold last year, adding to our fuel use and emissions.

In addition to the fuel used to produce a vehicle tire, the performance of a tire can impact fuel economy by reducing road friction and resistance.



In the last two years, NYC Fleet has implemented a project to test the effectiveness, longevity, and performance of tires made substantially of soybean oil, an extension of our 15 years of experience with soybean-based biofuel. As per the supplier Goodyear, these Assurance Weather Ready Tires reduce the use of fossil fuel by 60% and offer the promise of increased life and road performance.

Fleet has procured 1,000 biotires at six agencies. The investment of nearly \$90,000 was funded through existing maintenance funds by replacing traditional petroleum-based tires with the biotires on a normal replacement schedule.

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To get a full sense of the effectiveness of these new tires, Fleet will be assessing the fuel efficiency of the vehicles using these tires, as well as the useful life of the tires, and comparing them to traditional tires.

Thanks to Harris Kaplan for coordinating this project and especially to NYPD on their leadership in this initiative.

For more on the initiative, go to [click here](#).

NYC Fleet: Biotire Initiative	
Agency	Total Tires
DCAS/Citywide	76
DEP	69
CORRECTION	27
DOT	281
PARKS	16
NYPD	531
Total	1,000

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