

Mayor Announces School Busses Going Electric

By: Keith T. Kerman

On Earth Day, April 22, 2021, Mayor de Blasio, Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter, and Director of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Sustainability Ben Furnas announced that [the City's school busses will be going all-electric by 2035](#).

This matches the commitment in [Executive Order 53 of 2020](#) for the entire City fleet to do the same by 2040. The City will begin the transition with an order of 75 electric school busses. In a [recent op-ed](#) just in time for Earth Day, I discuss why transitioning to electric vehicles is the right move for us and our planet.



Working with DCAS, the Department of Education (DOE) now has its first two all-electric school busses, both Class A busses, serving up to 20 passengers. Both busses are ADA accessible and will have ranges of 80 to 100 miles per charge. DCAS procured the busses using NY State contracts and is also supplying the electric charging.

City mechanics will maintain these initial units through a shared services agreement between DOC, DOE, and DCAS. These two busses are not just the City's first electric school busses, but also the first City-owned school busses that are part of the NYC Fleet. School bus contractors currently operate the bus fleet citywide. Electric busses will end the exposure of children to bus engine pollution and idling. These busses will also reduce maintenance and fuel costs and be quieter.

These two electric school busses join over 2,800 City fleet units that are now plug-in, using over 1,040 EV fleet chargers, the largest electric fleet program in NY State. The electrification effort furthers the partnership between DCAS Fleet and the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT). OPT joined the Fleet Federation meeting in 2018.

In addition to electrification, DCAS also tracks 10,695 school busses through its Fleet Office of Real-Time Tracking (FORT). Through FORT, DOE can get information about bus utilization,

safety practices, and maintenance. OPT is also participating in Vision Zero safety initiatives including the Vision Zero Interagency Fleet Working Group and safe driver training.

It was just [five years ago, at our annual fleet show](#), that we first displayed an early electric school bus for the first time. NYC is now launching one of the most important truck electrification projects in the country.

Thanks to DCAS Fleet Director of Sustainability Jon Ells; Jen Robertson of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability; Russ Buckley, David Cadigan, and the OPT team at the DOE; DOC Fleet Director Greg Dimesa; Masha Rudina, Roman Gofman, Stephen Stamo, Andrew Dworjan and the team at DCAS Procurement and Legal for their work on this project.

COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, please be reminded to wear a mask when operating a fleet vehicle with others in the vehicle. Attached again are the [Department of Health's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines relating to vehicle operation](#).

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 340, March 29, 2021](#): NYC Fleet Spotlight: Dina Luddeni, FDNY Safety

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 339, March 23, 2021](#): It's Still Not Your Car. It's a Public NYC Fleet Vehicle

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