

DCAS Pilots Biodiesel 50 Percent (B50) With Parks, NBB

By: Keith T. Kerman

NYC government operations are major adopters of biofuels. Since FY13, NYC has used over 376 million gallons of biodiesel blended fuel for its fleet operations and heating oil. Both initiatives began at NYC Parks and are now codified in Local Law.

Throughout this period, the City has used blends of 5%, 10%, or 20% of biodiesel. The remaining fuel has been ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD). On September 2, the City received its first delivery of 1,610 gallons of B50, (50% biodiesel), at the Cloves Lake Park fueling site at NYC Parks. A DOT van was the first to use the B50 fuel, as part of our shared services for fueling.



This effort is part of a 26,000 gallon pilot that DCAS is implementing in partnership with NYC Parks, the National Biodiesel Board and United Soybean Board which funded enhancements to the Parks' fuel site to enable B50 use. This was also the culmination of a five-year effort to return to fueling B50 at Parks.

NYC Government Use of Biodiesel Blends			
	<i>Blended Gallons for</i>		
<i>FY</i>	<i>Government Buildings</i>	<i>Government Fleet</i>	<i>Total</i>
13	31,736,530	11,925,594	43,662,124
14	35,457,127	14,080,534	49,537,661
15	35,554,585	15,597,826	51,152,411
16	22,669,030	15,281,204	37,950,234
17	23,792,071	15,780,318	39,572,389
18	27,412,541	15,698,806	43,111,347
19	25,955,047	14,596,581	40,551,628
20	20,354,876	13,305,898	33,660,774
21	23,145,725	13,792,271	36,937,996
Total	246,077,532	130,059,032	376,136,564

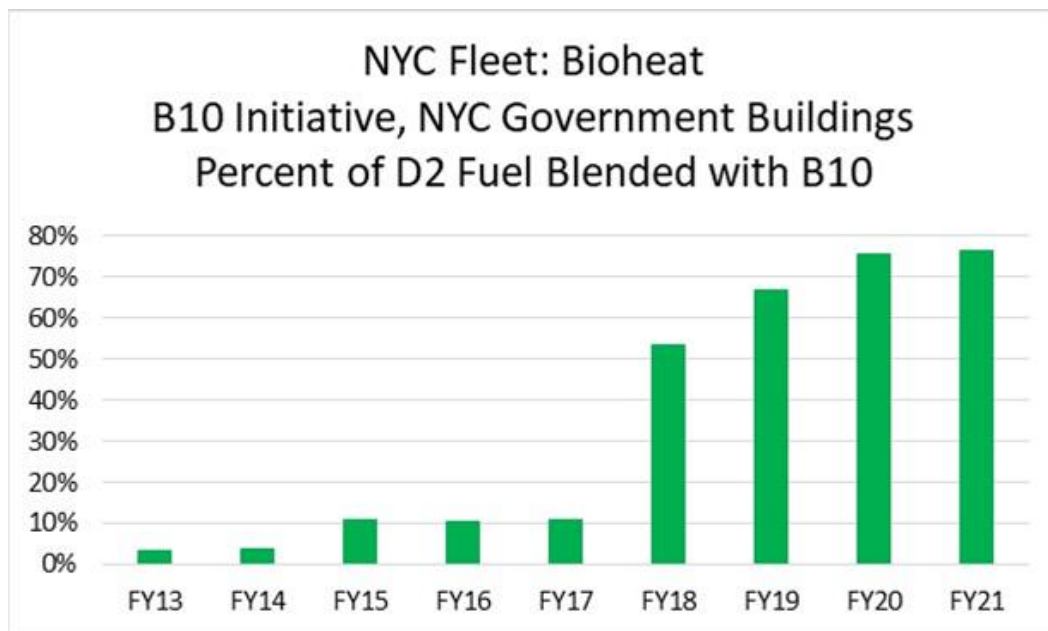
Parks has implemented B50 in the past. In FY08, an 11,000-gallon project was implemented and in FY11, nearly 20,000 gallons of B50 were used. Park operations in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island were part of these early efforts. In fact, Parks' use of biodiesel began with a donation of B100 in 2005.

However, in 2015, the EPA put in place new regulations governing biodiesel use and underground storage tanks (USTs). Any use of blends above B20 now required an engineering assessment of the compatibility of the UST and the fuel dispenser components with the higher blends of biodiesel.



NYC Fleet Senior Project Manager Ramona Ledesma Garrido, who holds a doctorate in chemistry, conducted the technical review. In early 2017, she prepared an over 200-page report on the materials compatibility of B50 and USTs. DCAS has worked with EPA, State DEC, FDNY Fire Prevention, and NYC Law for over five years to get authorization to restart B50 use under the new EPA guidelines. The pilot will be 26,000 gallons to be used this fall and spring. DCAS will conduct a review of the initiative after the pilot as we assess the future use of B50.

As we move towards higher blends of biofuels for fleet trucks, we also continue to do the same for heating oil. NYC buildings have been making the transition from B5 to B10 for heating with 76% of our bioheat that blends with D2 heating oil now B10. Through Local Law 119 of 2016, all NYC buildings, public and private, will be required to use B10 by October 1, 2025. NYC government has gotten a huge head start on that implementation. We plan to stay ahead of the upcoming heating oil targets of B15 by 2030 and B20 by 2034.



Thanks to our former Director of Sustainability Jon Ells, Director of Fleet Services Harris Kaplan, Chief of Staff Sherry Lee, Senior Project Manager Ramona Ledesma-Garrido, Parks Fleet Chief Paris Apollon, Gail Saunders of Law, Mark Aronberg of FDNY Fleet Services, Kevin Brennan and

the entire team at FDNY Fire Prevention, Tom Verry and the team at National Biodiesel Board, and Sprague, our fuel supplier, for their work on this project.

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](#).

Fleet Vision International Summer 2021 Quarter 3



Fleet Vision International is an international magazine aimed at fleet, transport, and operational and workshop depot directors/managers.

[The Fleet Vision International 2021 Quarter 3 edition](#) has now been published and focuses on the City of New York's vehicle telematics and DCAS's Fleet Office of Real-Time Tracking (FORT).

DCAS's Inside Citywide Podcast

DCAS's [Inside Citywide podcast](#) provides a behind-the-scenes look at New York City government. Episode 2 is out now and takes a look at the future of the City of New York's vehicle fleet as it transitions to all-electric by 2040.



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](#).

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 364, October 4, 2021](#): The Sun Shines on 32nd Annual NYC Fleet Show

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 363, September 24, 2021](#): Mayor Announces New Fleet Electrification Investment

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 362, September 17, 2021](#): NYS DEC and Con Edison Support NYC Fleet Electrification

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 361, September 14, 2021](#): Remembering Michael Higgins, Mechanic, DOC

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 360, September 10, 2021](#): Make September SLOWtember on the Roads

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