

Electric Pickups Will Be NYC Work Truck of the Future

By: Keith T. Kerman

New York City isn't coming back — we're back. Our streets are lively, our commercial business districts are thriving, and our city is humming better than ever. And here at DCAS, we're doing more than ever to create a sustainable vehicle fleet to help reduce our carbon footprint and create a greener city.

The age of the electric pickup has now begun in the City of New York's fleet operations. In an [announcement](#) during Climate Week last week, DCAS and NYC Parks celebrated the launch of 86 new electric Ford Lightnings that will be used to clean, maintain and program NYC's parks and playgrounds and public spaces citywide.



All-electric Ford Lightning pickup truck for NYC Parks being charged at a DCAS charging station.

Parks is the largest agency implementer up front of electric pickups, but citywide, DCAS and fleet agencies have procured 151 for agencies including Environmental Protection, Emergency Management, Sanitation, Fire, and Correction. DCAS also plans the additional purchase of at least 80 replacement pickup units in FY24, including 65 to replace gas and diesel units at City Department of Environmental Protection.

Overall, 22 City agencies utilize nearly 2,000 pickups truck for a wide variety of purposes. These include plowing, towing, liftgates, construction work, emergency response operations, off-road natural area maintenance, bucket truck operations, watering, winter salting, and more. A challenge for our electrification initiatives will be obtaining electric models that can perform the full range of functions agencies need to perform their critical missions.



All-electric Ford Lightning pickup truck for the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

The current battery range of our electric pickups is 255 miles. DCAS is currently [bidding](#) an additional EV pickup contract for longer battery range, over 350 miles. This longer range will aid as we look to add over time critical functionalities such as snow plowing and long-range towing to the capacity of our electric truck fleet.

The electric pickups will join our new fleet of electric cargo vans which we discussed in [Newsletter 432](#). Together, the City operates nearly 5,000 pickup and vans, well over 20% of our on-road fleet. Just a few years ago, the fleet did not have viable electric options in this area. By the end of fiscal year 2024, we expect to operate over 600 electric vans and pickups combined. This move to all electric pickups and vans will be critical as we pursue our goals of an all-electric light and medium duty fleet by [2035](#).



NYC Office of Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol and DCAS Fleet Deputy Commissioner Keith Kerman pictured in front of an electric Ford Lightning pickup truck.

In addition to the environmental benefits, DCAS expects to achieve cost savings with the new units over their lifetimes through fuel, maintenance, and longevity benefits. DCAS posted updated total cost of ownership (TCO) [estimates](#) for electric light and medium options this month. We will continue to update these estimates as we obtain actual maintenance and battery operations data in the coming years.

Thanks again to all the agency fleet procurement staff and DCAS Fleet Chief of Staff Sherry Lee, Director of Fleet Administration and Acquisitions Tamika Johnson, and DCAS Fleet Procurement staff Masha Rudina and Kirklival Henry for continuing our push to a zero emissions fleet. Thanks to Fleet Fiscal Unit Supervisor David Albert for his work on our TCO estimates.

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](#).

New York City Vision Zero Fleet Forum



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.



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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 435, September 18, 2023](#): Back to School, Back to Basics on Safe and Responsible Fleet Operation

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 434, August 28, 2023](#): Let's Talk About Electric Vehicles

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