Alternative-Fuel Vehicles

Long Beach City School District

Clean-Fueled School Bus Fleet

"We tell our kids 'think globally, act locally.' So the idea came to us to replace our aging and environmentally obsolete buses with clean-air CNG vehicles. At once, we would be improving our environment and teaching our kids a valuable lesson in conservation, health, and the power a dream and initiative have to change the world, even if it's just a bit, and just here in our own corner. We in the Long Beach School District are very happy that our three-year quest to obtain clean-air CNG buses has come to fruition, and we are thrilled to pass this legacy to our children and community."

- Dr. Ronald L. Friedman

Superintendent of Schools for the Long Beach City School District

First School District in State to Operate Entire Bus Fleet of Clean-Fueled Vehicles

Background

Dirty diesel emissions from school buses not only pollute the environment, but present health risks to students, especially those with asthma and other respiratory conditions. To help alleviate this problem, NYSERDA administers the New York State Clean Air School Bus Program and the Clean-Fueled Bus Program, initiatives funded by Governor Pataki's Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

Long Beach City School District, which has seven schools, with an enrollment of approximately 4,500 students and a bus fleet comprised of 38 vehicles, is the first school district in New York State to operate an entire fleet of clean-fueled school buses.

Incentive

The Long Beach School District received more than $1.2 million from NYSERDA as part of a $3.7 million project to purchase 20 new clean-fueled buses that use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), retrofit 18 of the school's existing diesel-fueled buses with emission-reducing technology, and develop a CNG fueling station.

In addition to the State's grant, the Long Beach City School District provided $1.5 million, KeySpan Energy Delivery provided $500,000, and more than $344,000 was received from the Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition (GLICCC) which administers a federal Congestion-Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program in partnership with NYSERDA. The U.S. Department of Energy provided a consultant for this project and funded more than $187,000 from its State Energy Program (SEP). US Department of Energy Funds were used for the construction of the new CNG fueling station and bus garage modifications.

Results

Twenty of the District's buses are new, low-emission vehicles using CNG and 18 are diesel buses that use oxidation catalyst devices to reduce harmful pollutants. Over the life span of these vehicles it is estimated that approximately 4.8 million pounds of pollutants will be displaced as well as 505,000 gallons of petroleum.

For more information about these services, contact NYSERDA
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