

Hybrid Vehicles



Description: The City of Albany recently purchased five hybrid SUVs, a hybrid garbage packer and a hybrid log-loader to add to the Department of General Services' (DGS) fleet. The Department had planned on purchasing the seven vehicles and began the process of researching vehicles expecting to purchase traditionally-fueled vehicles. During the search process, it was suggested that the city ought

to look into purchasing hybrids or other alternatively-fueled vehicles. Once the Department began talking to suppliers about hybrid trucks, they learned of a grant opportunity through NYSERDA's Clean Cities Program. Through this grant, the city was able to be reimbursed for the majority of extra expenses due to purchasing hybrids instead of traditional trucks. The City received \$92,240 in grant money from the NYSERDA Clean Cities Program. The purchase of the hybrid trucks last year was a great precursor to the city's 2011 Priority Initiatives, which include a goal of replacing 10% of the city's fleet with alternatively fueled vehicles by 2030.

About the project: The City of Albany purchased its first hybrid vehicles using grant money received through the NYSERDA Clean Cities Program. The Clean Cities Program allowed the city to be reimbursed for much of the additional costs they incurred by purchasing hybrid vehicles. The seven vehicles that were purchased were planned purchases and the City began looking for vehicles in early 2009. Thinking about sustainability, the city decided to purchase hybrid vehicles if possible. While researching hybrid heavy duty vehicles, DGS was made aware of grant money available for purchasing hybrid fleet vehicles. The city began the grant application process in May 2009 and deployed their seven hybrids in late 2010 and early 2011. City employees assigned to the new hybrid vehicles and the city's mechanical staff received training on their proper use and care.

Anticipated Annual Savings:
3,655 gallons of gas/diesel

Initial Cost:
\$488,300

External Funding:
\$488,300

Funding Sources:
Federal and State Grants
City Funding

Implementation Timeline:
2009 - 2011



Project Cost: The seven vehicles and all associated costs totaled \$488,300. With the NYSERDA grant, the city was able to recoup more than \$91,000 of the expense of purchasing hybrid instead of traditionally-powered vehicles. Hybrid Ford Escapes cost approximately \$8,000 more than a Ford Escape without the hybrid technology; so the city spent \$40,000

more than necessary, but was only reimbursed \$10,000 for the Escapes. The difference between purchasing a traditional packer and log-loader was approximately \$41,000 for each truck. With the NYSERDA grant, the city was reimbursed for 100% of that cost. Once all the grant money is received, the city will have spent \$396,000, which is only \$30,000 more than it would have spent if it purchased traditional vehicles. All of the vehicles except the Peterbilt HLA Packer were purchased under state contract. The Packer was a sole source purchase because Peterbilt is the only company manufacturing trucks with the HLA feature. The fuel savings from having seven hybrid vehicles in the city's fleet should offset this initial cost.



Project Benefit: The City of Albany estimates that it will save more than 3,600 gallons of gas and diesel fuel annually. Since the vehicles are so new to the city's operational fleet, this estimation is based on published fuel efficiencies for the hybrid vehicles. While the city is seeing savings, the savings in the vehicles' first few weeks of operation have not been as high as projected. A number of factors affect vehicle fuel efficiency, but the fuel performance of these

hybrids is mostly credited to the extremely low temperatures and snowy conditions the city has been experiencing.