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Press Release

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[Metro-North](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Metro-North Railroad Celebrates Earth Day All Yearlong Shops, Yards and Operations More Sustainable

MTA Metro-North Railroad has been going green for years, because saving energy, water and resources is a great way to save money.

To that end, restrooms in employee facilities and shops at North White Plains yard were retrofitted last year with low-flow toilets and urinals and sinks were fitted with automatic shut-off faucets because saving water also saves money.

Metro-North also is partnering with the New York Power Authority to install more efficient compressors, light fixtures and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems at various yards.

Each compressor replacement on average will result in a savings of 105,000 kilowatt hours per year, which equates to a reduction of 35 metric tons of carbon emissions and a savings of about \$32,000 a year.

Metro-North also is working with NYPA on energy conservation audits of Grand Central Terminal and yards at Brewster and North White Plains.

The new Coach and Locomotive shops at Croton-Harmon and the Highbridge Car wash incorporated sustainable design features such as the use of daylight via translucent wall panels and skylights overhead.

These three facilities also are equipped with modern building management systems that program lights, heat and air conditioning to reflect actual use of the buildings. These systems "go to sleep" when the building is unoccupied, saving electricity.

The Highbridge car wash also incorporated a water reclamation system to recycle 100% of the sudsy water and reduce water consumption. The car wash uses 280 gallons of water a minute and 200 gallons of that is reclaimed water. Only 80 gallons is fresh, which is used to rinse the cars. That rinse water is reclaimed and becomes wash water, and so on.

On the solar energy front, Metro-North is working with The Solar Energy Consortium and NYSERDA in the possible installation of photovoltaic panels on the intermodal walkway and off-grid solar signage for the platforms, and retrofitting select existing sodium vapor lights with filtered light-emitting diode lights (LED's) at the Poughkeepsie Station.

Also with NYSERDA, Metro-North is pursuing solar-powered exhaust fans for signal houses along the right-of-way, where a traditional power source is not available.

Metro-North has its eye on LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for Grand Central Terminal and the new Customer Service Center in White Plains.

The LEED Program was developed by the U.S. Green Buildings Council and provides a suite of standards for sustainable construction intended to provide environmentally friendly, efficient and healthy work environments. In 2009, for the first time, a Metro-North employee became LEED-accredited.

At Grand Central, the railroad has replaced every incandescent light bulb throughout the terminal with compact fluorescent bulbs, savings at least \$200,000 a year in electricity and countless hours of labor as CFLs don't have to be changed nearly as often as standard incandescent bulbs.

Metro-North issued a company-wide policy to prohibit vehicle idling. Company-owned rubber-tire vehicles are now outfitted with "Idling is fuelish" stickers on the dashboards so that employees are reminded on a daily basis to concentrate on conservation.

In 2007, Metro-North completed the switch to Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel fuel for its locomotives, a full five years before amendments to the federal Clean Air Act required it. By using ULSD, the railroad's sulfur emissions were reduced by 95%. Sulfur contributes to acid rain, which destroys forests, kills fish and corrodes buildings throughout the northeastern United States.

Using Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel fuel in all its locomotives also reduces emissions of particulate matter by 13%, about 10 tons a year.

All these efforts are in addition to the inherent "greenness" of public transportation. Each year, the 80 million trips made on Metro-North are trips not

made in automobiles!