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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Bridges and Tunnels Is Reducing Its Carbon Footprint

MTA Bridges and Tunnels is committed to reducing its carbon footprint using a variety of measures from installing environmentally-friendly LED lights on its necklace-lit bridges, increasing the number of hybrid and flex-fuel vehicles in its agency-wide fleet and continuing efforts to reduce paper consumption and recycle items ranging from tires and anti-freeze to tons of paper, plastic and metal.

"Since 2006, MTA Bridges and Tunnels has been working hard to reduce, recycle and conserve energy wherever we can," said Chief Maintenance Officer Patrick Parisi, who also heads the agency's sustainability effort. "We are committed to this effort and will continue to look for new ways to become even greener in the future."

Among the largest projects is converting the old 100-watt mercury vapor lights on the agency's four necklace-lit bridges to energy-saving, light-emitting diode, or LED, fixtures, which only use 30 watts of power. The move reduces electrical power required for the necklace lighting by 73 percent yearly.

The conversion of all 262 lights was completed at the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in October 2009, and is currently underway for the 190 lights at the Robert F. Kennedy. The project is expected to be completed by late summer. Old necklace lights will be replaced at the Throgs Neck Bridge in 2011, followed by the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge.

The agency has also reduced carbon dioxide emissions (greenhouse gases) emitted into the air. Since 2006, it has reduced these emissions by 1.4 million pounds, or 17 percent, by converting to low sulfur bio-diesel fuel in its fleet of 226 diesel fuel vehicles. The agency also has 112 flex fuel vehicles and 25 hybrid electric vehicles.

When it comes to waste recycling and paper reduction, B&T is also continuing its efforts here as well. Since 2006, the agency has reduced paper consumption by nearly 3.9 million sheets of paper, which if stacked up end to end would be 1,288-feet tall, or nearly twice the height of the 693-feet high Verrazano-Narrows Bridge towers. In 2009, the agency recycled 97.5 tons of paper and cardboard and 1.4 tons of plastic, and 2.25 tons of metal.

The amount of other items recycled since 2006 when conservation efforts were given a priority at Bridges and Tunnels includes:

- 18 miles worth of fluorescent lighting
- 5 tons of light bulbs
- 5.74 tons of vehicle and other batteries
- 21,600 gallons of motor oil and anti-freeze
- 2,800 tires.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels' facilities, which connect the five boroughs of New York City, are the Robert. F. Kennedy, Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Verrazano-Narrows, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial and Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Bridges, and the Queens Midtown and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels.



View of the Robert F. Kennedy suspended span, linking Manhattan and the Bronx to Queens, where 190 new, energy-efficient LED lights will soon replace the old mercury lights.