



MTA Press Releases

[Select Language](#) | ▼

Press Release

May 15, 2015

[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot Achieves LEED Gold Level Status

Harlem Facility's Certification Reflects MTA's Commitment to Sustainability

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced its new Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot in Manhattan's Harlem neighborhood has been certified LEED gold level status, an internationally recognized standard by the U.S. Green Building Council that measures a building's environmental standards.

The new Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot opened in November 2014, five years after MTA New York City Transit demolished a retrofitted 19-century trolley barn that became too obsolete for the needs and functions of a modern bus fleet. The majority of materials from that demolition was reused or recycled, with some becoming part of the new building's foundation.

"The LEED gold certification demonstrates New York City Transit's commitment to the environment and to the community we serve," said Darryl Irick, Senior Vice President of Buses for NYCT and President of the MTA Bus Company. "When we were getting ready to rebuild Mother Clara Hale, we were very mindful of our impact on the environment and on the members of the community around the facility. We want to do our part toward a better environment for all, whether it's a bus route that allows more people to leave their cars at home and take public transportation or this new state-of-the-art facility that helps us to do our jobs better and minimizes our energy footprint."

The new depot's sustainable features include a green roof that uses plants to cool the facility by adding a layer of insulation, absorbs carbon dioxide from the air, and reduces storm-water runoff; a south-facing solar wall that functions as a passive heating device by capturing and preheating air; a rainwater rooftop collection system that sends rainwater into an underground storage tank for use in depot operations; a bus wash water reclamation system; cost-effective and energy-efficient rooftop Heat Recovery Units that use a heat exchanger when it is cold outside and; a high-efficiency white roof that prevents heat gain in warm weather and does not reflect light onto nearby buildings or cause glare. New trees also were planted, and bicycle storage was added for employee use.

NYC Transit worked extensively with the community on the depot's design, including the creation of the Mother Clara Hale Depot Community Task Force with WEACTION, a Harlem-based advocacy group, and the area's local elected officials. The collaboration involved all aspects of the design, with an emphasis on environmental mitigation. As part of the community outreach, NYCT convened a first-of-its-kind community charrette in September 2008 attended by 150 residents. The results of this collaboration yielded a new benchmark for the planning of new sustainable transportation facilities, especially those located in densely populated urban areas.

The Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot houses 120 buses serving the M1, M7, M35, and SBS M15 routes. It consists of three fully enclosed floors, a mezzanine and the capacity to hold 150 buses. The additional capacity of the new depot allows the Department of Buses to accommodate fleet growth in the future.

Another MTA building, the Corona Subway Car Maintenance Facility in Queens, previously achieved a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating in 2006, becoming the first facility of its kind in the U.S. with a LEED certification. Details on New York City Transit's other environmental programs are available at mta.info.

Editors: Photos of Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot are available on the MTA's [Flickr](#) site.