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City Harvest Launches First “Green” Truck

Organization introduces first in a fleet of eco-friendly, bio-fuel powered trucks

New York, NY – New York City’s most recognizable fleet of trucks is going green! Commemorating 25 years as New York’s only and the world’s first food rescue organization, City Harvest is taking their “waste not” motto to the streets today with the launch of its first mild-hybrid, bio-fuel powered truck.

This one-of-a-kind, retrofit truck was custom designed specially for City Harvest, whose 16-truck fleet is on the road collecting and delivering food for New York’s hungriest. Until now, the charity has relied on standard refrigerated box trucks that require drivers to leave the engine running in order to keep the cargo at the proper temperature.

“Our solution was to replace the refrigerator with a cold plate system and eliminate the need for idling,” said Jennifer McLean, Vice President of Operations for City Harvest. “The new mild-hybrid, bio-fueled truck draws power off the engine while it’s in motion to charge a cold plate, similar to an ice pack, and keep perishable food at the right temperature.”

Once charged, the cold plate can store energy for 8 to 12 hours during truck delivery -- even more when the doors remain closed when not in use. The cold plate can also be recharged via an electrical outlet, another source of green power.

The fleet's newest addition will use 1,023 less gallons of fuel and require 6,443 less pounds of carbon a year; a lifetime savings of 12,272 gallons of fuel and 77,314 pounds of carbon. In addition, the vehicle will be fueled with B20, a biodiesel blend, found to reduce CO2 emissions by 15% when compared to petroleum diesel alone.

“Our organization was founded on the notion of using resources wisely,” stated City Harvest Executive Director, Jilly Stephens. “The green truck is a natural extension of City Harvest’s founding principle. Since 1982, we have been continuously taking significant measures to lessen our fleet’s carbon footprint with the 2001 launch of Street Fleet, an initiative that relies on volunteers to rescue and deliver food weighing less than 20lbs on foot. We’ve also saved millions of pounds of healthy, edible food from being needlessly tossed in the garbage, and given it to the City’s hungry.”