

Cab Gab
byAbe Mittleman

**MAYOR BLOOMBERG
ANNOUNCES TAXI FLEET
TO BE FULLY HYBRID BY
2012**

The following is a summary
and excerpts of a press
release from the Mayor's
office.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg today announced that as part of PlaNYC, the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) will implement new emissions and mileage standards for yellow taxicabs that will lead to a fully hybrid fleet by 2012 - the largest, cleanest fleet of taxis on the planet. The new standards will be phased in over a four-year period and will reduce the carbon emissions of New York City's taxicab and for-hire vehicle fleet by 50% during the next decade, and will also save individual operators an average of \$10,000 a year in fuel costs. "In PlaNYC, we set aggressive goals for the taxicab industry and today

we're going to begin meeting those goals," said Mayor Bloomberg. "Implementing tougher standards for the more than 13,000 taxis in this City will provide the same clean air benefits as removing 32,000 privately owned cars from our streets, which will significantly reduce the air pollution that causes childhood asthma. This will also decrease the fuel costs for taxi drivers, making this a win for the public and operators alike.

On Earth Day, Mayor Bloomberg outlined PlaNYC, a series of 127 proposals aimed at helping New York meet the challenges of adding nearly one million people to the City's population between now and 2030, while at the same time reducing the City's greenhouse gas emissions by 30%. The Ford Crown Victoria, the current workhorse of the taxicab fleet, achieves only 14 miles per gallon (mpg). After October 2008, all new vehicles entering the fleet must achieve a minimum of 25 mpg (based on EPA city surface street ratings), and after October 2009, all new vehicles must achieve a minimum of 30 mpg. When

fully implemented, the new standards are expected to reduce carbon emissions by more than 215,000 tons. Currently there are only 375 hybrid vehicles in the City's taxi fleet. By October 2008, the number of hybrids in the fleet will triple. The phase-in for the City fleet to become completely hybrid is as follows:

October 2008 - 1000 yellow hybrid taxicabs;

October 2009 - 4000 yellow hybrid taxicabs (30% of the fleet)

October 2010 - 7000 yellow hybrid taxicabs (53% of the fleet)

October 2011 - 10000 yellow hybrid taxicabs (76% of the fleet)

October 2012 - all yellow taxicabs will be hybrid (100% of the fleet)

"We expect these new standards will save 22 million gallons of fuel in the first year, and that is only the beginning of what we will be able to accomplish," said TLC Commissioner Daus. "Thanks to Mayor

Bloomberg's bold vision laid out in PlaNYC, the New York City taxi fleet's carbon footprint will be lighter than at any point in its 100-year history. The environmental meter is running, and our efforts are paying the fare for a healthier tomorrow.

As part of its "Be a Better Planet" program, Yahoo! donated ten hybrid Ford Escape taxicabs to operator Team Systems. The cabs will be used to replace gasoline-only powered Ford Crown Victoria vehicles, saving tens of thousands of gallons of fuel over a taxicab's service lifetime, and reducing carbon emissions by more than 16 tons per vehicle each year. The vehicles being donated today get approximately 36 mpg (city streets). Yahoo! kicked off the "Be a Better Planet Challenge" in Times Square.

"Yahoo! applauds Mayor Bloomberg's aggressive PlaNYC initiative to build a greener, greater New York City," said Patrick Crane, vice president of marketing, Yahoo! Network Division. "As a company focused on

protecting the environment, we found it only fitting to award New York with a fleet of hybrid taxis as part of our 'Be a Better Planet' campaign, which gives people across the country specific ways to take green actions in their hometowns. We challenge other cities across America to follow New York's example as Yahoo! searches for the greenest city in America."

In addition to the PlaNYC speech on Earth Day, New York City hosted the historic C-40 Large Cities Summit last week. During a keynote address to the Summit on Tuesday, Mayor Bloomberg announced that New York is joining the Climate Group, and on Wednesday he announced that New York City would participate in an initiative sponsored by the Clinton Foundation to reduce carbon emissions from buildings.

