



Calls for New York City to ditch diesel

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New York City operates a fleet of over 30,000 vehicles and now there are calls for the famous city to drop diesel-powered vehicles.

Clean energy advocates and health experts are lobbying the New York City Council to stop buying heavy-duty diesel vehicles for its municipal fleets, including refuse trucks and buses.

The group have asked the council to instead investigate the use of natural gas-powered vehicles running on fuel made from organic wastes.

They say diesel exhaust is a major source of climate-changing and health damaging emissions, and triggers asthma attacks afflicting 13.3% of New York City's children.

London has stopped procuring new diesel vehicles, while other major cities are restricting or eliminating them.

The advocates also want additional funds allocated for infrastructure and fleet garage modifications to support the implementation of the alternatives.

Joanna Underwood, founder and board member of alternative energy proponents, Energy Vision, says there is no reason for the council not to change to cleaner options.

"The budget process could help make it happen. The City Council could play a leadership role to encourage City agencies to seize the opportunities they have to deploy better alternatives."

We will keep you updated as further details come to hand.