Clean Energy Opens RNG Fueling Station in New York City

The station will offer a commercially available RNG vehicle fuel derived from capturing biogenic methane emitted from organic waste materials.

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Clean Energy Fuels Corp. on July 10 welcomed New York City officials, community leaders and environmental advocates to the opening of its newest natural gas fueling station in Hunts Point, N.Y.—the first station in New York City to exclusively offer renewable natural gas (RNG) for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets.

“A few blocks from here is Hunts Point Market, the largest food distribution center of its kind in the world, resulting in approximately 15,000 truck trips per day,” said Chad Lindholm, vice president of sales for Clean Energy, in a statement. “This long-envisioned station will serve fleets operating in Hunts Point with a lower-cost alternative to diesel fuel that can lead to substantial reductions in truck-related pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.”

The Hunts Point station will exclusively offer Clean Energy’s Redeem, a commercially available RNG vehicle fuel derived from capturing biogenic methane emitted from decomposing organic materials at dairies, landfills and wastewater treatment plants. Redeem enables at least 70 percent reduction in carbon emissions when displacing diesel or gasoline, according to California Air Resources Board estimates.

Trucks fueling with Redeem represent a significant reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For example, 100 trucks running on RNG can lower GHG as much as 9,294 metric tons annually. This is equivalent to planting
237,942 trees, removing 1,961 cars off the road or recycling 3,331 tons of waste that would otherwise be sent to the landfill.

“I applaud and congratulate Clean Energy today on making a renewable natural gas fueling station a reality for Hunts Point trucking fleets in the South Bronx. Natural gas trucks, particularly ones fueled by renewable natural gas, have a tremendously low carbon footprint, which is important for communities disproportionately affected by diesel emissions,” said NYC Department of Transportation Bronx Borough Commissioner Nivardo Lopez in a statement. “The addition of this station now makes possible and plausible the transition of large portions of Hunts Point fleet industries to this cleaner, domestically produced fuel.”

“This new Hunts Point station is no ordinary fueling station. It is the first in the city to supply only the renewable form of natural gas made from waste,” said Joanna Underwood, founder of Energy Vision, in a statement. “Private and public fleets that fill up here can provide their critical services with virtually no health-threatening air pollution or greenhouse gases. Bravo to Clean Energy for helping our city achieve its clean air and climate goals.”

In addition to Hunts Point, Clean Energy operates four natural gas stations in New York City, consisting of stations at LaGuardia and JFK Airports and two stations in Brooklyn.

The Hunts Point RNG fuel station opening follows another recent RNG “first” in New York. In May, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority issued a request for proposal for companies to supply RNG to fuel some 800 New York City transit buses, which currently run on conventional compressed natural gas. It’s the first step any agency has taken toward adopting RNG for New York City vehicle fleets.

“RNG stations like this one will also help tackle our waste challenges by leveraging organic wastes as a valuable energy resource instead of discarding them, letting them rot and warm the climate,” added Underwood. “The RNG fuel delivered here at Hunts Point is piped in from distant landfills or food or farm digesters, which means New York will get the environmental and health benefits of that production. But more stations like this one could soon be using home-grown RNG made from the city’s own wastes, which would multiply the benefits and help meet the city’s zero waste goals. New Yorkers generate more than 1.2 million tons of food waste a year, which we now spend hundreds of millions a year to ship to landfills out of state. But this waste is a renewable energy goldmine. It can make enough RNG to power the city’s whole fleet of 5,000 heavy-duty trucks. Add to that the RNG that could be generated from city’s 14 wastewater treatment plants (like the one just around the corner), and we could produce enough RNG locally to power every city-owned and private waste hauling truck on our roads and then some.”