

The Bulletin



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NYC TRANSIT IS CONSERVING ENERGY

The April, 2006 issue of NYC Transit's **At Your Service** newsletter explains how this agency is doing everything possible to conserve energy and protect the area's environment.

The new millennium trains — R-142, R-142A, R-143, and R-160, —are equipped with alternating current propulsion and regenerative braking that returns power to the third rail for reuse. There is a 10 percent energy saving compared with the older cars. The R-160s will save additional energy by limiting the power drawn by the cars when accelerating. NYC Transit saves 15 percent in energy by reducing the maximum speed of all trains from 55 to 50 miles per hour. The old cars were equipped with d.c. motors, whose brushes generated carbon dust. The new a.c. motors do not have brushes. The new cars also have lightweight ring-damped wheels, which reduce noise. The cars' roof-mounted heating/ventilating/air-conditioning units are solid state and climate-controlled, reducing energy consumption and using less refrigerant.

NYC Transit's electric bill is \$194 million a year for 2.2 billion kilowatt hours. The Office of Energy Management has participated in the New York Power Authority's High Efficiency Lighting Program since 1992. This program saves nearly \$3.5 million per year. In 1999, Capital Program Management achieved certification by the International Organization for Standardization to its ISO 14001 Environmental Management System — the first United States public agency to reach this goal.

By placing 1,400 solar panels on the roof of the Gun Hill Bus Depot, energy consumption was reduced 10-15 percent. A huge solar

panel canopy spans the rehabilitated Stillwell Avenue subway station.

Certification under ISO 14001 helped NYC Transit's acceptance in 2003 to the International Association of Public Transport's Charter on Sustainable Development. In 2004, the Roosevelt Avenue subway station and Corona Maintenance Shop were honored in New York City's first Green Building Design competition. Examples of sustainable design are:

- Reducing electrical demand with light-dimming systems and motion detectors or generating electrical energy from renewable sources such as solar panels, fuel cells, and wind
- Combining natural lighting with skylights and high-performance glazing, and improving thermal performance
- Saving water with low-use fixtures and systems that recycle water or use storm water.

The Division of Materiel's Asset Recovery Team received recognition for its programs to minimize waste and recycle used materials. Since 1996, Asset Recovery has recycled more than 41,000 tons of paper, saving the equivalent of 15.6 million gallons of oil. Last year, NYC Transit recycled more than 90,000 pounds of batteries by boiling down the electrolytic fluid and crystallizing it to make sodium sulfate for detergents, fertilizers, and cosmetics.

Because 7.1 million people ride the subway or buses each day, there are an estimated 700,000 cars kept out of Manhattan's central business district and 400 million fewer pounds of soot, carbon monoxide, and other pollutants released annually into the air.