



**Greening Commercial Refuse Trucks in New York City:
A New INFORM Alternative Fuel Vehicle Initiative
Summer 2004**

In 2003, INFORM completed the first comprehensive study of United States refuse, recycling, and collection vehicles: *Greening Garbage Trucks: New Technologies for Cleaner Air*. INFORM found that 179,000 waste collection, waste transfer, and recycling vehicles are on US roads today — 91% of them diesel-fueled and most of them old. While these vehicles perform a vital public service, their emissions contain large quantities of gases, fine particulates, and more than three dozen toxic contaminants. In addition, diesel garbage trucks generate noise levels that can be high enough to cause serious hearing damage. This air and noise pollution is delivered to virtually every street in America.

Diesel-powered garbage trucks pose significant threats to the environment, to the health of residents in the communities they serve, and to the workers who maintain and operate them. But there is good news as well. INFORM's report showed that a slow but successful shift is taking place from diesel to cleaner natural gas. Today, over 2,000 natural gas-powered refuse trucks are operating in over 35 cities throughout the US. °

While New York City is home to dozens of commercial refuse truck operators and hundreds of commercial refuse trucks, these fleets have little experience with advanced fuels and technologies. INFORM hopes to change this situation with its new initiative, Greening Commercial Refuse Trucks in New York City.

Greening Commercial Garbage Trucks in NYC: The Challenge and the Opportunity

INFORM seeks to facilitate the introduction of commercially operated natural gas-powered refuse trucks in New York City in order to provide immediate environmental, health, and quality of life benefits to all city residents. This initiative will help ensure that commercial refuse carters and fleet managers have the necessary technical and strategic support to take advantage of natural gas and other alternative fuel and engine technologies. Specifically, this initiative will:

- 1) Conduct an analysis of commercial refuse truck operations in New York City, using data and information collected from private waste haulers and other sources. INFORM will estimate the emissions generated by commercial refuse truck fleets and project the quantity that may be reduced by converting those vehicles to natural gas. We will also provide an overview of public policy approaches implemented across the US that can most effectively promote fleet changes and reward innovators.
- 2) Form a coalition comprising environmental groups, environmental justice advocates, and business and government leaders committed to increasing the use of alternative fuel vehicles in New York City's commercial refuse truck fleet. INFORM's research will equip coalition members with information on how to reduce commercial refuse truck emissions and develop recommendations for the City of New York and private fleet operators.

3) Hold forums to discuss the need for change, the opportunities in New York City, and the elements of a successful clean fuels project. Forums will include fuel sellers, independent infrastructure installers, fleet operators, vehicle manufacturers, government officials, government grant and economic incentive providers, and the key advocates in targeted communities.

4) Provide the technical, strategic, and partnership building support needed to get truck conversions to natural gas moving forward in several New York City pilot fleets.

The Greening Commercial Garbage Trucks in New York City initiative is funded primarily through grants from The New York Community Trust and The Educational Foundation of America.

Key Staff

Antonia Bryson, Esq., INFORM Project Consultant

Antonia Bryson is a practicing attorney who is working as a project consultant to INFORM. Ms. Bryson runs the Urban Environmental Law Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping community groups and low-income individuals fight local environmental problems and advocate for improvement of their environment. She was formerly Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection in charge of New York City's air and noise pollution control and hazardous materials programs, and led one of the largest programs in the country seeking to convert vehicles to alternative fuels. Prior to her service with the Department of Environmental Protection, she founded and served as head of the environmental department of the New York City Law Department, which provides advice and legal assistance to all city agencies on environmental matters and pursues and defends lawsuits relating to the city's environment.

Ms. Bryson is presently chair of the Export Committee of the Manhattan Citizens' Solid Waste Advisory Board. She was a European Environmental Fellow of the German Marshall Fund, and received last year's National Preservation Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for her work in helping to preserve Governor's Island. She graduated magna cum laude from Brown University and received her law degree from New York University.

Juliet Burdelski, INFORM Project Consultant

Ms. Burdelski is a transportation planning and alternative fuels specialist working as a project consultant to INFORM. Ms. Burdelski has nearly ten years' experience in transportation planning and is president of her own consulting firm, JL Burdelski Planning Partners, Inc. Prior to joining INFORM, she helped implement a heavy-duty vehicle and compressed natural gas fueling station project in the South Bronx as a marketing director for the Kingdom Group. Ms. Burdelski has also done alternative fuel vehicle consulting work for the City of New York, the Texas General Land Office, KeySpan Energy, the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Southern Connecticut Gas, and the Honda Motor Company.

About INFORM

Since 1974, INFORM, a national nonprofit environmental research and outreach organization, has uncovered solutions to some of the industrial world's greatest environmental challenges: how to prevent the unsafe use of toxic chemicals in consumer products; how to promote the manufacture and use of products that can be more readily refurbished, reused and recycled; and how to accelerate the shift in transportation to the vehicles of the future, powered by pollution-free renewable hydrogen. Through extensive collaboration with government agencies, policy makers and advocates, our work has become a powerful catalyst for change. Visit our website, www.informinc.org, to learn more about this and other INFORM projects, ask questions about our work, and make a contribution to our organization.