

Boston CleanAir CABS

As part of the City of Boston continuing commitment to sustainable transportation, the CleanAir CABS program was launched on April 1, 2007. Through the CleanAir CABS initiative, taxicab owners will have the opportunity to replace ordinary taxis with cleaner vehicle technology.



CleanAir CABS are commercially available, electric, hybrid-electric (hybrid), compressed natural gas (CNG), and low emission alternative fuel vehicles. The hybrid Ford Escape, the Hybrid Toyota Camray, and the CNG-powered Ford Crown Victoria have been approved by the Boston Hackney Division as qualifying for the program. Other vehicles may be approved in the near future.



There are benefits for taxi cab owners to make the switch to the hybrids. Hybrids burn much less gasoline than ordinary vehicles (from 50% to 70% less in the city) and CNG generally cost less per (Gasoline Gallon Equivalent) than gasoline. Drivers of CNG vehicles may qualify for a rebate from a natural gas company and federal tax credit.

Other benefits from Hybrid and CNG Taxi Cabs?

- Get a federal tax credit
- Enjoy extended taxi service life
- Save time at the airport
- Breathe easier
- Conserve gasoline resources

Learn more about the benefits

Questions & Answers about Hybrid and CNG Taxi Cabs

Download the complete brochure containing everything you need to know about CleanAir CABS

ENROLL NOW!



To participate in the CleanAir CABS pilot program, the Owner of the taxi must request approval from the Hackney Division to put a CleanAir CABS vehicle on the road. You can get information by calling the Hackney Division at 617-343-4475.

Boston Clean Air CABS is a partnership of government agencies, private businesses and community members dedicated to reducing fuel costs and air pollution through the introduction of hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles to Boston Taxi industry.

Benefits of Hybrid and CNG Taxi Cabs

Get a federal tax credit!

Purchasers of hybrid and CNG vehicles qualify for a tax credit of up to \$3,000 on their next federal tax return. For more information, contact the Taxpayers Incentive Assistance Project at www.energytaxincentives.org

Enjoy extended taxi service life!

Operators of a new clean air vehicle as a taxi qualify to use the vehicle for up to 6 years, as long as the vehicle continues to pass standard service inspections.

Save time at the airport!

Up to twice per shift, drivers of CleanAir CABS may use the “short job” line at Logan Airport’s taxi queuing facility, saving a driver, on average, a one-hour wait.

Breathe easier!

Engine exhaust is unhealthy, and can be especially harmful to people with asthma and other respiratory illnesses. It can even trigger asthma attacks. Asthma attacks send kids to hospitals five times as often in Boston as in the rest of Massachusetts. By driving CleanAir CABS, you will lower your vehicle’s tailpipe emissions and reduce the amount of air toxics and smog in Boston. You will also help slow climate change, because a CleanAir cab emits less greenhouse gasses.

Conserve gasoline resources!

Reducing the demand for oil-based products such as gasoline will help to keep the price down in the region, make the supply last longer, and reduce the nation’s dependence on foreign oil.

Questions & Answers about Hybrid and CNG Taxi Cabs

Do hybrids have to be plugged in?

No! Hybrids use excess power from the gasoline engine and from regenerative braking to recharge their batteries.

Do hybrids really save much gasoline?

Yes! The vehicle draws power from the battery first and engages the gasoline supply only when the battery begins to run down. Hybrids perform especially well in stop-and-go city driving. Also, only battery power is usually used while waiting for traffic lights or passengers. In New York City and San Francisco, drivers of hybrid cabs have reported saving 7 gallons of gasoline per shift.

Do warranties apply to hybrid batteries?

Yes! Unique hybrid components such as batteries will usually have extended warranty coverage in addition to the manufacturer’s standard warranty coverage.

Can local mechanics repair hybrid and CNG vehicles?

Ordinary repairs on brake pads, tires, suspension and alignment, exhaust system, oil pan, and the vehicle body are no different than on ordinary gasoline vehicles. However, the hybrid power system and the CNG engine are specialized equipment that should only be serviced by specially trained mechanics.

Where can I purchase a hybrid vehicle?

Several manufacturers now make hybrid vehicles. Check with the Boston Hackney Division for the latest list of approved “clean air vehicle” models, and then contact your local auto dealer for prices.

Where can I purchase a CNG vehicle?

There are several U.S. companies, such as BAF Technologies and TeleflexGFI that convert ordinary gasoline vehicles to compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles. If you cannot purchase a CNG vehicle directly from the manufacturer, you may be able to purchase a vehicle from one of these companies or hire them to convert a standard gasoline vehicle for you.

Where can I fuel a CNG vehicle?

Anyone with a CNG vehicle and a credit card can use the CNG fueling stations located in West Roxbury, Newton, and at Logan Airport; two more stations are under development. Download the [CleanAir CABS brochure](#)



For more information contact

Boston Police Department- Hackney Division
617- 343-4475
Boston Police Headquarters
One Shroeder Plaza