



THE LUCAS TREE EXPERT COMPANY ADDS HYBRID ELECTRICS TO ITS FLEET OF DIESEL UTILITY VEHICLES

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Lucas Tree Experts is greening up its fleet of utility trucks through the addition of two new diesel hybrid electric bucket lift trucks. With the support of a federal grant under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) of 2008, Lucas Tree will purchase the new hybrid trucks for its operations in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The grants are administered by the Environmental Defense Fund's New England Office and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

"We are very excited to be one of the first tree companies in the U.S. to be able to offer our utility customers a hybrid solution for their vegetation requirements. We expect the trucks to provide a quieter, cleaner work environment for our employees, reduce our carbon footprint, and hopefully help accelerate the development and acceptance of hybrid technologies in our industry," said Lucas's chief executive? Art Batson III. Employing more than 450 people and headquartered in Portland, Maine, Lucas's fleet of 275 trucks serves a customer base of power and communication utilities, along with residential and commercial customers across New England, six Canadian provinces, and the Carolinas.

Hybrids improve fuel efficiency on the order of 30 to 50 percent, offering an immediate cost savings while simultaneously delivering air quality and climate benefits. Utility bucket lift trucks draw power from the electric battery to run onboard equipment, eliminating idling and further increasing fuel savings.

"High-efficiency hybrid trucks, such as the two Lucas has introduced to its fleets, are an important part of the solution to one of today's most pressing environmental issues: climate change," noted Jason Mathers, project manager for the Environmental Defense Fund's Boston Office. "These trucks are good business, too. They are less expensive to operate than comparable conventional vehicles."

Medium and heavy-duty trucks are responsible for six percent of total carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) in the U.S. Diesel hybrid engines use much less diesel fuel--in some cases as much as 60% less-- than a conventional diesel truck. These fuel savings translate into significant reductions in CO₂, a principal greenhouse gas. Hybrids also

reduce particulate matter, which is associated with the state's high incidence of pediatric asthma, and hydrocarbons (HC), a leading contributor to the formation of ground-level smog.

Under the terms of the grant agreement, Lucas Tree will relocate an existing non-hybrid truck in Massachusetts to Maine, where another Lucas vehicle will be scrapped, in effect eliminating the PM emissions of the existing diesel vehicle. For the hybrid placed in Massachusetts, MassDEP is expected to fund up to \$40,000 of the new vehicle's estimated \$180,000 purchase price under DERA. Lucas Tree Experts will fund the remaining cost of the vehicle.

“The purchase of diesel hybrid trucks serves two air quality goals: reducing CO₂, a greenhouse gas, and decreasing diesel particulate emissions, which are associated with the high level of pediatric asthma,” said MassDEP Commissioner Laurie Burt. “The Commonwealth has an integrated strategy to reduce diesel pollution that includes emissions testing, retrofits of buses, waste collection and off-road vehicles, and support for low-emission vehicle technology.”

Hybrid vehicles are one of a host of technologies and strategies aimed at reducing diesel emissions. By adding these vehicles to its fleet, Lucas Tree Experts, along with other New England fleet operators, is helping move diesel hybrid technology from the margins of innovative technology to mainstream diesel fleet consumers.