

NYC plans to make taxi fleet hybrid

by UPI

NEW YORK - All yellow cabs in New York City will be fuel-efficient hybrids within five years, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced Tuesday.

Under Bloomberg's plan, all new taxis would have to get at least 25 miles per gallon by October 2008, a standard that would rise to 30 miles per gallon a year later, The New York Times reports. The city now has about 400 hybrids in the taxi fleet, and Bloomberg wants that to increase to 1,000 by October 2008.

"There's an awful lot of taxicabs on the streets of New York City obviously, so it makes a real big difference," Bloomberg said in an interview on NBC's "Today." "These cars just sit there in traffic sometimes, belching fumes; this does a lot less. It's a lot better for all of us."

The city has about 13,000 yellow cabs, which are privately owned but licensed with medallions that can cost thousands of dollars. Most cabs now are Crown Victorias that get 10 to 15 miles per gallon.

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