

DAS *newsrelease*

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For immediate release

Smart Decisions within the State Fleet result in Savings

Since 2009, DAS Fleet has reduced its pool of vehicles from over 4,000 vehicles to 3,338 along with noticeable shift from intermediate sized cars to compacts.

Over the past couple of years the combination of more fuel-efficient vehicles and a reduction in miles traveled has combined to lower the annual amount of fuel used by DAS Fleet by almost 9,000 gallons less per week compared to previous years. Since 2009, DAS' fuel consumption has dropped from 2.1 million gallons to 1.6 million gallons in 2011 – a drop of 23%. Also since 2009, DAS' fleet of vehicles miles per gallon has improved from 21.9 mpg to 25.3 mpg in 2011 – an increase of 15.5%.

DAS Commissioner Donald DeFronzo said, “As automotive technology improves and we right size the fleet for the appropriate business needs of the state, we can expect greater economies in our operation. The end result being a lean and efficient fleet of vehicles with significant savings for the taxpayers of Connecticut.”

In the compact car class, the Dodge Stratus' (with a rating of 19 mpg city and 25 mpg highway) are being replaced mostly by Ford Focus models that offer 26/36 mpg; an increase in mileage of over 30%. Also, for 2013 DAS is expanding the use of the Chevrolet Cruz and introducing the new Dodge Dart. Both of these models offer similar MPG numbers as the Focus.

In the intermediate car class, Ford Taurus' are being replaced by Ford Fusions and Chevy Malibus. The gas mileage savings is substantial with the Fusions and Malibus getting 23/33 mpg - nearly a 30% improvement over the Taurus at 18/25 mpg.

In the SUV class, DAS Fleet has replaced many Ford Explorers with Ford Escapes. The change will yield at least a 35% improvement in gas mileage. As for 2013, the Escape gets 21/28 mpg which is significantly better than the Ford Explorers numbers of 13/17.

As DAS Fleet continues to downsize it's vehicles in size while using more fuel efficient vehicles, DAS expects these numbers to continue to improve.

DAS Fleet will continue to pursue all avenues in fleet reduction and fuel saving methods to ensure the best use of state dollars to enhance state vehicle performance.