

Manhattan Beer Distributors Rolls Out New CNG Trucks

By [Andrew Kaplan](#)

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Manhattan Beer Distributors (MBD) on Monday added an additional 12 trucks to its growing fleet of compressed natural gas delivery vehicles.

MBD is a pioneer in using CNG trucks in the New York metro area having first introduced 15 trucks in 2002 out of its headquarters in Bronx, N.Y. The addition of the 12 CNG trucks to the Long Island fleet brings the total number of CNG trucks to 75, out of 300 delivery trucks overall.

MBD is one of the largest beer distributors in the country, with territory that includes all of New York City plus Long Island and eight adjacent upstate counties. MBD's major suppliers are MillerCoors, Crown and Boston Beer. It operates out of five facilities in Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Wyandach and Suffern and recently moved into a new headquarters facility in the Bronx.

Mike McCarthy, senior operations vice president of operations for Manhattan Beer, was on hand Monday at the company's Wyandach, Long Island location to announce the expansion of the CNG program. Several other MBD executives and local government officials also attended a ceremony, which included a tour of the new trucks and an on-site CNG fueling station first constructed in 2008.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition funded \$573,000 for the MBD trucks out of its \$15 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy (D.O.E.).

CNG trucks replace diesel trucks and they are a significant investment in clean air for New York residents, MBD says, adding that the operation of the 12 CNG trucks in Long Island will help eliminate approximately 83 tons of vehicle pollution while displacing an estimated 218,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The company services 15 counties in the NYC metro area, and approximately 25,000 customers.

“We started here at Wyandanch with 15 CNG Cummins retrofit International CNG trucks and a fueling station back in 2008 and we’re here today today to celebrate the expansion of 12 more additional trucks to the fleet, so at this point we will be up to 27 vehicles servicing Nassau and Suffolk counties,” said Mike McCarthy, senior operations vice president of operations for Manhattan Beer, at the rollout Monday. “We’re very much appreciative of our partners from the Department of Energy and locally from the Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition (GLICCC). They are the folks that helped us put all of this together.”

The company’s CNG program started in 2002 with 15 CNG trucks and a fueling station in the Bronx, and then expanded into Brooklyn with another 15 trucks and a fueling station, followed in 2008 by the 15 in Long Island and the third fueling station.

McCarthy said the company’s CNG expansion plans are “aggressive,” saying that the company plans on continuing its CNG truck purchases in 2014 and will also add two CNG fueling stations.

“Manhattan Beer, as a company, continues its green initiatives,” he said. “We recently moved into a new corporate headquarters in the Bronx whereby we were able to put in some of the most efficient cooling and heating systems available, as well as 100 percent LED lighting throughout our entire facility.” And by year’s end, he said, the company will have enough solar power on its Bronx facility roof to make it the largest independently-owned solar system in New York City. The company also recycles glass, wood, aluminum, cardboard, paper and plastic.