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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Queens Clean Air Project and Delta Air Lines Partner to Reduce Airport Emissions***

***Airline unveils electric service vehicles, reducing emissions by 19.2 tons/year***

**New York (October 17, 2006).** Clean Air Communities' Queens Clean Air Project, Delta Air Lines, and the New York Power Authority today unveiled the region's first fleet of electric airport ground-support equipment at an event at 10:45 am at the Port Authority's historic Marine Air Terminal at LaGuardia Airport in Queens. The \$1.1 million project, partially funded by a \$494,000 grant from the Queens Clean Air Project (QCAP) and \$160,000 from New York Power Authority (NYPA), enabled the airline to replace the diesel equipment servicing the Delta Shuttle with fast-charging electric equipment, thereby reducing emissions by 19.2 tons per year.

"The Queens Clean Air Project is an important component in the combined effort to reduce pollution and improve health in this county," said Queens Borough President Helen Marshall. "Like the trash compactors and green roof that QCAP also installed in our neighborhoods, the switch to electric airport service equipment helps address the staggering statistics linking air pollution and diseases like cancer and asthma. I thank Clean Air Communities (CAC), the New York Power Authority, and Delta Air Lines for their commitment to improving our environment for today's residents and future generations."

The project has permanently retired 15 pieces of ground-support equipment (7 baggage tractors, 6 belt loaders, and 2 aircraft tractors) and retrofitted one diesel aircraft tractor with an active diesel particulate filter that removes 95 percent of the harmful soot from the exhaust. The switch from diesel to electric equipment achieves impressive reductions in both fuel consumption and harmful emissions: each year the old equipment used 61,840 gallons of diesel fuel and contributed a total of 19.5 tons of air pollution. By contrast, the electricity to power the new equipment contributes only 0.34 tons/year in emissions; eliminated therefore are 12.4 tons of nitrogen oxides, 0.8 tons of particulate matter, 4.6 tons of carbon monoxide, and 1.4 tons of hydrocarbons. Over the service life of the fleet, the project saves 826,405 gallons of diesel fuel and reduces emissions by 256.4 tons.

"Exhaust from highway and service vehicles is one of the leading causes of air pollution in our city and contributes to an asthma rate that is among the highest in the nation," said New York City Councilmember James F. Gennaro, chair of the Council's Committee on Environmental Protection. "I applaud Delta Air Lines and CAC's Queens Clean Air Project

for their leadership in helping to clean our air and make New York City a much greener place to live and work.”

Rich Cordell, Delta’s Senior Vice President – Airport Customer Service, noted that “Delta has long been a supporter of the community and the environment, and we’re pleased to implement electric equipment at LaGuardia that will not only enhance our operation, but also ensure a cleaner community for years to come.”

The Delta project is one of five initiatives in the Queens Clean Air Project, a partnership with Clean Air Communities funded by a \$2 million grant from NYPA. Also completed through QCAP are the installation of the largest green roof in New York atop Silvercup Studios, the deployment of 50 solar-powered trash compactors throughout Queens, and the installation of pollution controls on 65 Department of Sanitation refuse collection trucks.

According to Timothy S. Carey, NYPA’s President and Chief Executive Officer, “Delta and all the partners in the Queens Clean Air Project have proven one of Governor Pataki’s key tenets: that the private and public sectors can work together to successfully incorporate smart environmental thinking with smart business practices so both the environment and the economy benefit. Recently NYPA topped \$1 billion for investing and administering energy conservation projects throughout New York State. In New York City, NYPA has completed more than 1,000 energy services projects, which are saving city taxpayers \$75 million annually in municipal electric costs and making the city’s air cleaner by reducing greenhouse gases by 477,000 tons a year.”

To complete the LaGuardia project, Delta worked with staff of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport, to install the infrastructure needed to charge the batteries of the electric vehicles and to clean the particulate filter. “The Port Authority is proud to work with Clean Air Communities, Delta Air Lines, and the New York Power Authority on this innovative project to install state-of-the-art, zero-emissions ground service equipment,” said Port Authority Executive Director Kenneth J. Ringler, Jr. “With more than 300 alternative-fuel vehicles in the Port Authority’s fleet, we have long recognized the importance of being responsible environmental stewards, and we applaud all those involved in this latest effort to reduce emissions.”

CAC’s Director, Debbi Edelstein, noted that “Delta is setting an example not only for the airline industry, but also for all businesses operating diesel vehicles and equipment in New York City. Today we’d like to challenge other good corporate citizens to invest in clean air and public health by using new technologies to reduce emissions from their fleets.”

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## **ABOUT THE PARTNERS**

### **Clean Air Communities (CAC)**

CAC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to implementing air pollution reduction and energy efficiency strategies in New York City communities that are disproportionately affected by air pollution. Since its inception in 2000, CAC has directed almost \$7 million to projects ranging from

advanced truck stop electrification at Hunts Point Cooperative Market in the Bronx to installation of a microturbine cogeneration project at Clinton Hill Apartments in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. For its groundbreaking partnership approach and impressive benefits to the community, CAC was honored with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Excellence Award in 2002 and with one of the first Environmental Excellence Awards by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2005. See [www.cleanaircommunities.org](http://www.cleanaircommunities.org).

### **Queens Clean Air Project (QCAP)**

QCAP is a collaborative partnership of Northeast States Center for a Clean Air Future, New York Power Authority, Office of the Queens Borough President, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the New York Public Interest Research Group.

### **Delta Air Lines**

Delta Air Lines (Other OTC: DALRQ) offers customers service to more destinations than any global airline with Delta and Delta Connection carrier service to 292 destinations in 46 countries. With more than 50 new international routes added in the last year, Delta is America's fastest-growing international airline and is the world's leading carrier between the United States and destinations across Europe, India, and Israel with flights to 29 trans-Atlantic destinations. To Latin America and the Caribbean, Delta offers nearly 400 weekly flights to 48 destinations. Delta's marketing alliances also allow customers to earn and redeem SkyMiles on more than 14,000 flights offered by SkyTeam and other partners. Delta is a founding member of SkyTeam, a global airline alliance that provides customers with extensive worldwide destinations, flights, and services. Including its SkyTeam and worldwide codeshare partners, Delta offers flights to 461 worldwide destinations in 96 countries. Customers can check in for flights, print boarding passes, and check flight status at [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com).

### **New York Power Authority (NYPA)**

The New York Power Authority uses no tax money or state credit. It finances its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity. NYPA is a leader in promoting energy-efficiency, new energy technologies, and electric transportation initiatives. It is the nation's largest state-owned electric utility, with 18 generating plants in various parts of the state and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines. NYPA provides lower-cost power to government agencies, to municipally-owned and rural-cooperative electric systems, to job-producing companies and nonprofit groups, and to private utilities for resale—without profit—to their customers and to neighboring states, under federal requirements. Please visit [www.nypa.gov](http://www.nypa.gov).

### **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey operates many of the busiest and most important transportation links in the region. They include the John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International, LaGuardia, and Teterboro airports; AirTrain JFK and AirTrain Newark; George Washington Bridge and Bus Station; Lincoln and Holland tunnels; three bridges between Staten Island and New Jersey; PATH (Port Authority Trans-Hudson) rapid-transit system; Port Authority-Downtown Manhattan Heliport; Port Newark; the Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal; the Howland Hook Marine Terminal on Staten Island; the Brooklyn Piers/Red Hook Container Terminal; and Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown Manhattan. The agency also owns the 16-acre World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan. The Port Authority is financially self-supporting and receives no tax revenue from either state.