

## **SUMMARY**

### **Excessive Idling of Highway Vehicles at LIRR and MNR MTA/OIG Report #2012-06**

An analysis by the Office of the MTA Inspector General (OIG) reveals that highway vehicles at the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) and Metro-North Railroad (MNR) idle illegally for a combined total of over 20,000 hours each month. Illegal idling (defined by New York State law as idling over 5 minutes) at the two railroads wastes over \$800,000 each year, potentially damages the vehicles and needlessly pollutes the environment. Our inquiry analyzed relevant data from the Automatic Vehicle Location Monitoring (AVLM) systems installed on nearly 600 LIRR and 50 MNR highway vehicles and supplemented that analysis with observations of LIRR and MNR vehicles idling in the field. While neither railroad installed AVLM with the intention of monitoring vehicle idling, an analysis of AVLM records by OIG staff shows that vehicles in both agencies idle unnecessarily and often illegally. In response to our analysis, both LIRR and MNR agreed to all of our recommendations to limit vehicle idling. MNR will deploy AVLM throughout its fleet of highway vehicles, monitor data collected from AVLM and take actions to decrease vehicle idling in the future. For its part, LIRR will implement a new management structure to monitor vehicle idling and reduce instances of drivers idling illegally. Inspector General Barry L. Kluger stated, "Certainly, we are encouraged that the LIRR and MNR have accepted all of our recommendations and intensified and expanded their efforts to reduce excessive vehicle idling. Unquestionably, these efforts will result in financial savings and a cleaner environment."

#### **Press**

[National Idling Reduction Network News 9/2012 - New York MTA: Fuel Costs for Illegal Idling Likely Top \\$800,000 Annually](#)

[NY Daily News article 9/19/12 - MTA Maintenance Vehicles Burned through \\$800,000 in Gas--and They Weren't Even Moving: IG report](#)

[NY Post Article 9/20/12 - MTA Wastes \\$800K Per Year on Illegally Idling Vehicles: Report](#)

[Newsday Article 9/20/12 - LIRR Trucks Idle Illegally, Cost \\$40G, Report Says](#)

[amNew York Article 9/20/12 - MTA's Idling Cars Wastes Million](#)