

The Department of Ecology is pleased to announce we are seeking applications for funding assistance through our Washington State Clean Diesel Grant Program.

Our Clean Diesel Grant Program will award funds for projects that support the Department of Ecology's strategy for reducing diesel emissions in the State of Washington:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/diesel_exhaust_information.htm

The goals of this strategy are to:

- decrease the amount of diesel pollution emitted into the air; and
- reduce the negative health effects of diesel pollution, especially for:
 - children, the elderly and people whose existing health problems put them at risk (sensitive populations); and
 - economically disadvantaged communities (environmental justice communities) that are exposed to a higher amount of air pollution than the general population.

We will be accepting applications and making funding awards in two phases.

Phase I – Existing Applications. *Evaluation and funding awards will be made in early September 2011 using existing applications currently on file from prior solicitations. Project categories that apply to these funding awards include the following:*

- School Bus Replacements - estimated funds available: \$1,500,000
- School District Idle Reduction Technologies and Installation - estimated funds available: \$1,000,000
- Fire District Projects (Engine repowers, exhaust retrofits, idle reduction) – estimated funds available: \$500,000
- Construction Equipment Exhaust Retrofits (on-road vehicles and off-road equipment)– estimated funds available: \$200,000

Phase II – Accepting New Applications. *Evaluations & funding awards will be made in early November 2011 using existing applications, and new applications received as a result of this solicitation. Ecology specifically requests applications for projects in the following categories:*

- Additional awards for school bus replacements, idle reduction for school bus, fire district projects, and construction equipment retrofits
- Port and Marine Projects (including Columbia River)
- Other projects that provide significant diesel emission reductions

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Because additional funds may be available at later dates, Ecology will continue to accept applications after the November timeline. Please do not hesitate to submit an application at any time.*

Eligibility

We encourage the following entities to apply (Applicants must operate diesel engines more than 50% of the time within the State of Washington to be eligible):

- Cities
- Counties
- Municipal associations
- Public utility districts or co-ops
- Ports
- Transit authorities
- State government
- Non-profit organizations
- Privately-owned diesel fleets operating mainly in Washington

Priorities

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has identified diesel exhaust as one of the air pollutants most harmful to public health in Washington State. Seventy percent of the cancer risk from airborne pollutants is from diesel exhaust. It makes healthy people more at risk for respiratory disease and worsens the symptoms of people with health problems such as asthma, heart disease, and lung disease. More than four million people in Washington live or work close to highways and other major roads where they are most likely to be exposed to diesel exhaust.

Ecology will evaluate all applications to determine how the project will reduce exposure to diesel emissions and improve public health for Washington's citizens. In addition, we will prioritize all applications as follows:

- 1st Priority:** Public fleets including cities, counties, municipal associations, public utility districts, port and transit authorities, and state agencies.
- 2nd Priority:** Privately-owned vehicles and equipment that: (a) provide and maintain public service such as garbage collection, recycling, and utilities; (b) construct public roads and buildings; and (c) operate on port properties or are associated with port activities, such as cargo-handling equipment, drayage vehicles that transfer goods and materials, and harbor vessels.
- 3rd Priority:** Other privately-owned vehicles and equipment that operate mainly within Washington.

Application Deadline

Applications for Phase II projects should be submitted no later than Monday, October 17, 2011 to have priority consideration. We will continue to accept applications after October 17, 2011 and will make additional awards based on funds available.

Application & Guidelines

The Department of Ecology, Clean Diesel Grant Application & Fleet List spreadsheet can be found at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/DieselGrantPage.htm>. We encourage you to provide an attached cover letter further explaining your project, your financial need, and other information related to this project such as costs, device information, time frame, partnerships, etc.

Contact Information

For questions regarding this announcement, contact:
Carrol A. Johnston, Diesel Coordinator, at 360-407-6568 or carr461@ecy.wa.gov

Thank you for your time and interest in keeping the air we breathe – cleaner!

-Carrol