



Beyond The Fumes...

Philadelphia Diesel Difference
(PDD) Newsletter

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“Beyond The Fumes...” is produced quarterly for use by PDD Working Group Members and interested members of the public to learn the latest regional news relating to clean diesel technologies and projects

Inside This Issue

Communities	2
Goods Movement	2
Fleet Focus	2
City Council	2
Chair	3
AQ Action	3
City Fleet	3

PDD Calendar

November 1: 2nd Annual Clean Ports Workshop, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Center City (8:00 am - 2:30 pm)

November 19: PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)

December 10: PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)

“Forging Partnerships To Reduce Diesel Emissions”

www.cleanair.org/dieseldifference

Clean School Bus Grant to Fund Phila School District

The School District of Philadelphia was delighted to be notified in September that its Fleet is being recommended for funding under the Clean School Bus USA grant program, sponsored by EPA. The grant will provide \$293,000 for diesel retrofits in the form of Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs) with Closed Crankcase Ventilation (CCV) technology added. The Closed Crankcase system was included in an effort to minimize engine emissions in the bus cabin itself. Some studies have indicated that much of the exhaust that ends up in school bus interiors may emanate from the crankcase.

PDD staff assisted in completing the calculations for this grant, and

Ports Grant on Horizon

EPA Region 3 has issued a Request for Proposals for a grant that would fund clean ports technology at one or more of the region's port facilities. The grant totals \$750,000 but may be awarded to as many as seven projects. A link to the Request can be accessed on the Ports Task Force website at <http://www.cleanair.org/dieseldifference/fundraising/current.html>, or through grants.gov. Proposals are due December 7th. Diesel Difference staff is exploring potential projects for the Philadelphia Port.

will continue to work with the School District to ensure that the implementation phase of this grant goes smoothly, once it is officially awarded.

Other local school districts have received Clean School Bus grant awards in recent years, including the Great Valley School District and the Chester County Intermediate Unit. Notably, this is the first year that a large number of urban school districts have received funding.

MDC Event Held in Philadelphia

Stakeholders gathered at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission on September 12th to review the progress to date as well as possible future goals of the Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative. Speakers from EPA and MARAMA presented reports on the status of the group and of the diesel technology landscape, but the crux of the event was a series of breakout sessions designed to generate input and ideas on how to adapt the Collaborative to current trends in the diesel technology sector. Participants gathered in small subgroups and discussed the Collaborative's strengths and challenges, and what might be changed to position the group for future success.

FLEET FOCUS: Philadelphia Port

Now that the Port of Philadelphia Retrofit Project is complete, it's time to focus on the future for green ports in our area. The recent approval of the Delaware River dredging, along with the proposed expansion of Southport will likely mean larger ships traveling and docking locally. Luckily, a wide array of greening options exist, and PDD is in discussions with EPA, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority and Port tenants to review what technologies might be best suited to Philadelphia. In addition, the upcoming EPA Ports Grant (see p. 1) presents a new and exciting opportunity to build on existing resources and past successes.



PDD Reaching out to Communities

Community Outreach has been a focus in recent months, as Spring events such as the Clean Air 5K and the Ozone Action Kickoff highlighted PDD activities. In August, Clean Air Council and the Port Environmental Task Force sponsored an Asthma Awareness event in South Philadelphia at United Communities' Houston Center. AMS staff was in attendance to answer questions about the City's role in improving regional air quality and its public-private partnerships like PDD.

Green Fest, likewise, served as a platform to disseminate information about PDD's goals and activities. This community fair was attended by dozens of local environmental groups and environmentally-conscious businesses, as well as hundreds of community residents, who came out to learn more about what consumers can do to reduce their environmental footprint.

Plans Underway for 2008 Health and Goods Movement Symposium

Experts from across the country may soon be gathering in Philadelphia to discuss how the movement of goods across the region may be impacting local health and safety. In an effort to raise awareness about the effects of diesel exhaust from trains, ships, and trucks, a one-day conference is being planned, tentatively for spring of 2008. A planning committee has been formed that includes EPA, DVRPC, Clean Air Council, Air Management

Services, and the University of Pennsylvania. A tentative agenda has been drafted, and topics to be discussed may include the cumulative effects of diesel exhaust as well as risks posed by the movement of hazardous and toxic goods. Solutions to these concerns will also be covered and some time is planned to engage in breakout sessions that will allow participants to give comments and ask questions about specific topics in a smaller group setting.

Bills Pending before Philadelphia City Council

Several pieces of legislation are now being considered by Philadelphia's City Council. While three of these are intended to address consumer waste (limiting the use of food service products, packing and shipping materials and

plastic shopping bags), one would require the installation of plug-in infrastructure in a portion of the City's parking spaces. This would allow plug-in vehicles such as electric cars and hybrid electric cars in the future.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR:

The Philadelphia Diesel Difference has enjoyed a great deal of success over the past year, and is poised to play a key role in a number of upcoming initiatives, as well as those that are ongoing. The diesel retrofits to be purchased with the funds received through our settlement with Sunoco will help to clean up the City's Fleet significantly, and the MDC Grant will specifically fund the technology on fire department vehicles, protecting the health of Philadelphia's first responders as well as the communities they serve. School buses will soon be cleaner as well, thanks to a Clean School Bus grant received by the Philadelphia School District that will fund DOCs and Closed Crankcase systems on 233 buses. Add this to the dozens of off-road vehicles that were recently retrofitted at the Port of Philadelphia.

Hardware isn't the only focus of our group, however. A number of events are on the horizon, including a planned Goods Movement and Health Symposium that aims to bring experts from a wide array of fields together to discuss the commercial transport of goods and its effect on public health locally. The Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative also recently held a meeting in Philadelphia to discuss the future of the group and possibilities for new organizational changes.

I would like to thank the members of the Diesel Difference Working group for all of their assistance in bringing these programs to fruition. Here's hoping for another successful year in 2008!

-Thomas Huynh, Chair, Philadelphia Diesel Difference

AQ Action Days

Although official data has not yet been released, twenty-three Orange Level air quality forecasts were issued this summer for the City of Philadelphia, reflecting the persistent warm weather the region experienced since May. An Orange Alert means that air quality may be unhealthy for sensitive groups such as children and seniors. During the summer months, air quality alerts are typically attributed to high levels of ground level ozone in the atmosphere, which can pose risks to human health. Particulate matter (PM) or other pollutants can also trigger alerts. PM, especially, can hover close to the ground and pose problems in cooler weather.

City Gearing Up for Retrofits and Biodiesel

The City's Fleet is about to get greener, thanks to three different funding sources that will soon provide diesel retrofits and biodiesel for hundreds of City vehicles. The first installment of the City's landmark settlement with the Sunoco Corporation has been received, providing \$400k for retrofit kits for City vehicles. Orders have already been placed for the first round of installations. This year's installment is expected to be followed in two more in each of the next two fiscal years, for

a grand total of \$1.2 million. This settlement has already helped to fund the early implementation of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel for City fleet vehicles.

In addition, contracts are being finalized for the City's Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative (MDC) Grant, provided by EPA, and for the State of Pennsylvania's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG). The MDC Grant will provide for 77 Diesel Oxidation Catalysts, to be

installed on fire trucks in stations across the City. Under AFIG, the City will be able to install a dedicated tank for the storage and distribution of biodiesel fuel, along with a per-gallon subsidy to cover the incremental cost of the fuel. The City's Office of Fleet Management will be overseeing the implementation of all three programs, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, Air Management Services.



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The Philadelphia Diesel Difference Vision

The Philadelphia Diesel Difference (PDD) Working Group has been formed to help build a coalition of diverse partners with a mutual interest in reducing air pollution from diesel engines in the greater Philadelphia area through voluntary programs and the use of innovative strategies including market-based approaches.

PDD is coordinated by the City of Philadelphia's Air Management Services (AMS) and Clean Air Council. Its operational costs are paid through a contract between AMS and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Member News

Clean Air Guardians

Clean Air Protector

Clean Air Advocate



Clean Air Partners



Diesel Difference membership dues are used to pay for the costs of administering the PDD Program. If your organization is interested in making a contribution, email Eric at echeung@cleanair.org.