



# 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

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Sust. Skylines | 2 |
| Fleet Focus    | 2 |
| Freight        | 2 |
| AQIF           | 2 |
| Em. Gen.       | 3 |
| Chair          | 3 |
| 5K             | 3 |

## PDD Calendar

**July 8-9:** *Faster Freight, Cleaner Air Conference, Javitz Convention Center, New York, NY (10:00 am - noon)*

**July 21:** *PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)*

**September 15:** *PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)*

**October 20:** *PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts.*

“Forging Partnerships To Reduce Diesel Emissions”

[www.cleanair.org/dieseldifference](http://www.cleanair.org/dieseldifference)

## Grant Season for Diesel Programs is in Full Swing

After three years of anticipation, the first grant cycle for funds authorized under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) of 2005 is now underway. A Request for Proposals was issued in March of this year and proposals were due on June 13th. Several local organizations, including the City of Philadelphia and the Clean Air Council, submitted grant proposals.

Through this program, funding is available for diesel retrofits, fuel-saving technologies such as hybrids and auxiliary power units, and alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG) and biodiesel.

Under the same funding program, \$200,000 is being provided to each participating state for diesel

*(Cont'd on Page 3)*

## Mayor Nutter Names Sustainability Director

In May, as a step towards fulfilling his pledge to make Philadelphia the “greenest city in the United States of America”, Mayor Michael Nutter appointed Mark Allen Hughes, Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Fox Leadership Program of the University of Pennsylvania, as the City’s Director of Sustainability. A longtime resident of the Delaware Valley, Dr. Hughes holds a bachelor’s degree from Swarthmore College and received his Ph.D. at Penn. He will officially begin work on July 7th, though he has been participating in meetings with City staff members already working on sustainability programs, and has even begun sharing his policy plans publicly, as he did at the most recent Urban Sustainability Forum, a lecture series hosted by the Academy of

Natural Sciences. The evening’s topic was “Greening Philadelphia’s Infrastructure,” which included discussion of land use planning, energy, transportation and water management. Dr. Hughes’ responsibilities will encompass all those topics and more as he attempts to integrate the City’s existing programs with best practices and ideas for future sustainable growth and programmatic development.

Look for Dr. Hughes at the next meeting of the Philadelphia Diesel Difference where he will be introducing his (and Mayor Nutter’s) plans for greening the City. For more information about the City’s sustainability plans and green activities, please visit <http://www.phila.gov/green>.

## **FLEET FOCUS: Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission**

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has been a local pioneer in the implementation of alternative fuels in government fleet vehicles. Their fleet runs on a mix of several different alternative fuel vehicle types, including propane, biodiesel and ethanol. They operate 19 propane stations for 45 vehicles, and were the first governmental agency in the state to switch to biodiesel, with more than 300 vehicles using roughly 250,000 gallons a year. They also possess 220 flexfuel vehicles which are running on E85 ethanol fuel. Amazingly, the Turnpike Commission has absorbed all expenses associated with these initiatives, which are helping to reduce thousands of pounds of pollutants each year.



### **Sustainable Skylines Kickoff Set for Fall**

This fall, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission will host the official launch of the Sustainable Skylines partnership, a stakeholder group designed to address an array of urban sustainability issues. The grant for this program was awarded in June and will provide \$150,000 to support implementation of a

number of individual projects that will be coordinated by the partnership participants, which include DVRPC, EPA, SEPTA, and the City.

Among project areas covered will be clean diesel technology, most likely a diesel hybrid or advanced retrofit of a municipal vehicle, and an outreach campaign aimed at

minimizing vehicle idling. Other proposed projects include targeted street tree planting and a lawnmower changeout program to reduce emissions from yard equipment.

The partnership is looking into different options for maximizing benefits from this program, including leveraging resources with other sources of funding. Check the PDD website for updates on the partnership and the kickoff.

### **Faster Freight Conference a Success**

Participants from across the region and the nation came together this July in New York City to discuss issues related to freight movement. More than three dozen speakers and panelists participated in the event, which was held July 8-10 at the Javitz Convention Center. Several Diesel Difference members participated in the event, including Eric Cheung who presented at one of the breakout sessions. Topics included environmental stewardship at port facilities,

green infrastructure and expansion, funding and incentive programs, and future energy needs. The event culminated with tours of port facilities in New Jersey and New York. The New York Container Terminal tour spotlighted green rail options, while the New Jersey port tour showcased green cargo handling equipment, on-dock rail operations, and the largest alternative energy-generating roof in North America.

### **AQIF Rolling Out**

The City is once again using funds accrued through air pollution fines and penalties to initiate green programs aimed at improving health outcomes for residents. The Air Quality Improvement Fund (AQIF), now in its third cycle, is funding hybrid city vehicles, trees, and a green building training module for City staff to improve understanding of implementing green building technology in Philadelphia. The green building training will support future efforts to encourage green growth.

## **A WORD FROM THE CHAIR:**

The past few months have been busy ones for Diesel Difference partners. Between a slew of new grant opportunities and established projects coming to fruition, there has been no shortage of attention paid to clean diesel technology. In particular, several partners submitted funding proposals to EPA under the Mid-Atlantic Clean Diesel Grant, which has been funded under the Diesel Emissions reduction Act. In part thanks to the work of the Diesel Difference Working Group, Philadelphia is in a good position to compete for this funding.

There is much to look forward to in the near future. The Sustainable Skylines working group is now beginning its efforts to implement a variety of environmental programs, including diesel-related projects, and the second phase of the CARE grant is slated to be underway soon at the Port of Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Zoning Commission plans to reformat the Zoning Code which will likely facilitate green planning initiatives, such as transit-oriented development and traffic mitigation strategies.

Finally, our City's Mayor has appointed a new Sustainability Director as well as a Deputy Mayor of Transportation who are working diligently to tackle issues related to diesel emissions and their associated health impacts. They are now working with City staff members to identify policies and programs to fulfill Mayor Nutter's promise of making Philadelphia America's greenest City.

-Thomas Huynh, Chair, Philadelphia Diesel Difference

## **Emergency Generator Testing Restricted to Cut Ozone Emissions**

Under a new policy set by Air Management Services, facilities will have to wait until after 5:00 pm to conduct testing of their emergency generator systems or fire pumps. They will also be required to refrain from testing altogether on air quality action days, when the Air Quality Index is forecast to be over 100. On these days, air quality is classified as "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups," "Unhealthy," "Very Unhealthy," or "Hazardous." The purpose of this policy is to mitigate the health impacts of ozone pollution on hot, sunny days.

These generators, usually powered by diesel or another

fossil fuel, contribute to our region's ozone problem by emitting oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds, which react in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ozone. The Philadelphia Metropolitan Region is in moderate nonattainment with federal standards for ozone and fine particulates.

The rule is in effect until September 30th, and will not apply in the event of an actual emergency.

Air quality forecasts for our region are available on the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's website at [www.airqualitypartnership.org/](http://www.airqualitypartnership.org/).

## *Grants, cont'd*

emissions reduction. Pennsylvania will be using these funds to assist with a project at the Philadelphia Airport to electrify ground service equipment.

It is expected that funding will be made available soon for emerging technologies that have not yet been verified. For more information visit [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

In addition to the availability of federal funds, the State of Pennsylvania recently closed its Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG). This grant funds the incremental cost of alternative fuels as well as vehicle upgrades and fueling infrastructure. The City was awarded an AFIG grant in 2006 for a dedicated biodiesel fueling station and the incremental cost of 500,000 gallons of B20 biodiesel. The City has reapplied this year in an effort to continue that program and to expand the City's use of Natural Gas Vehicles as part of its refuse hauler fleet.

## **Another Successful 5K**

This year's Clean Air 5K Race was held April 19th on Martin Luther King Drive near the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Roughly 1800 runners registered for the event, and Mayor Michael Nutter was on hand to address the event's participants and guests.

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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](mailto:echeung@cleanair.org).