

The Northeast Diesel Collaborative

A joint venture among EPA, NESCAUM, and the Northeast states to reduce emissions from diesel vehicles

Emissions from diesel engines are a primary source of air pollution in the Northeast United States and both pose a significant risk to public health and impose a cost on society. Twenty-five counties in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York fail to meet the health-based air quality standard for fine particles, and other urban areas in the Northeast just meet the standard. The fine particles in diesel exhaust can aggravate asthma, cause lung damage, and even lead to premature death. The Northeast has some of the highest asthma rates in the nation, including a childhood asthma rate above 10 percent.

While the US Environmental Protection Agency has taken critical steps to ensure that the diesel engines of the future will be significantly cleaner than those operating today, diesel engines are very durable and the older models will continue to pose health and environmental risks for many years.

Fortunately, the Northeast states, NESCAUM, and EPA have a proven ability to deliver programs and projects to reduce air pollution. Through a broad range of pilot projects, regulations, voluntary measures, and mandatory programs, EPA, NESCAUM, and the states have demonstrated how to effectively address the problem of diesel emissions across the region.

The Northeast Diesel Collaborative builds upon this foundation of success to spur new, innovative projects to reduce diesel emissions by: (1) developing linkages among existing programs; (2) expanding the scope of existing programs; (3) encouraging partners to collaborate in new initiatives; (4) serving as a technical clearinghouse; (5) leveraging diverse funding sources; and (6) communicating the success of this program to the larger community.

The Collaborative will pursue a sector-based approach to address truck, transit bus, school bus, construction equipment, locomotive, and marine engine sources. The Collaborative will pursue a broad array of diesel emission reduction strategies, including: retrofit, retirement and replacement, truck stop electrification, idle reduction measures, clean diesel contract requirements, monitoring and assessment, and outreach and communication.