



WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE
A public-private partnership to reduce diesel emissions



Cargo-Handling Equipment and Public Fleets Retrofits

The West Coast Collaborative funded the Washington State Department of Ecology (ECY) \$1,730,000, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, in April 2009, to install exhaust retrofit emissions control technologies, engine repowers and engine upgrades on cargo handling equipment at ports in Washington State. A portion of the funding will also be used to launch an idle reduction program for public fleets and install idle reduction technologies on public fleet vehicles.

What is the Project?

Retrofits devices will be installed on approximately 200 pieces of cargo handling equipment at the Ports of Seattle, Tacoma and Vancouver (WA). In some cases, an engine repower or replacement may be chosen as the most effective emissions control strategy. Additionally, the project will include the installation of engine pre-heaters on fifty school buses and forty transit buses. This will eliminate, on average, thirty minutes of idling per bus on cold mornings. Electronic control modules will be installed on twelve public works vehicles and will eliminate, three to twelve hours of idle time per engine, per day.

Why is this project important?

The Washington State Department of Ecology has identified diesel exhaust as the air pollutant most harmful to public health in Washington State. Seventy percent of the cancer risk from air borne pollutants is from diesel exhaust. Diesel exposure increases 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 Ports, highways and other roadways where they are likely to be exposed to diesel exhaust.

This project will reduce harmful diesel emissions in three major Washington State ports and their neighboring communities and will further the goals of the NW Ports' Clean Air Strategy. The project will also lower fuel expenditures and greenhouse gas emissions by reducing or eliminating idling in public fleet vehicles.

What are the estimated environmental/economic benefits?

The Washington Department of Ecology identified diesel exhaust as responsible for 70% of the cancer risk from airborne pollutants and as the air pollutant most harmful to public health in Washington State. More than 4 million people in Washington live or work close to highways and other major roads where they are likely to be exposed to diesel exhaust. It is estimated that this project will reduce diesel particulate emissions by at least 25%, thereby reducing the risk to at least 4 million people of cancer, asthma, heart disease and lung disease.

What is the Collaborative?

The West Coast Collaborative is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, and local government, the private sector, and environmental groups committed to reducing diesel emissions along the West Coast. Partners come from all over Western North America, including California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, Canada and Mexico. The Collaborative is part of the National Clean Diesel Campaign. For more information, please go to: www.epa.gov/cleandiesel

How can I find out more about the Collaborative?

For more information, on the West Coast Collaborative, please visit our website at www.westcoastcollaborative.org. For more information about this project or about the Marine Vessels & Ports Sector, please contact Francisco Doñez: donez.francisco@epa.gov. For more information about the Public Fleets Sector, please contact Grace Cheng: cheng.grace@epa.gov.