The goal of the West Coast Collaborative is to leverage federal funds to strategically reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in impacted communities. The Collaborative seeks to improve air quality and public health by targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective control strategies.

DERA 2014: Metropolitan Portland, Oregon Air Quality Improvement from Freight Movement

The West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is pleased to announce the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s (ODEQ’s) receipt of a United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant to replace heavy-duty diesel short haul drayage trucks and retrofit cargo handling equipment. This project will be implemented using $1,500,000 in DERA grant funding combined with $1,371,000 in matching funds from participating trucking fleets.

What is the Project?
This project will replace twenty three model year (MY) 1992–2003 Class 8b heavy-duty diesel trucks used in dray service and travelling over 1.3 million miles annually in the urbanized Portland metropolitan area. The trucks will be replaced with model year 2011 or newer trucks meeting EPA’s most stringent tailpipe standards. The project will also retrofit cargo handling equipment, two terminal tractors and an aerial lift, with active regeneration diesel particulate filters. This equipment is used in an intermodal freight facility in the city of Portland.

Why is this project important?
Exposure to diesel exhaust has been associated with decreased lung function, heart disease and exacerbation of asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia. The ODEQ conducted the Portland Air Toxics Assessment which showed high concentrations of diesel pollution across the city, especially in freight distribution centers with marine, rail and truck terminal facilities. This project reduces diesel emissions as well as the negative health effects associated with exposure. The target fleets will be comprised of dray trucks operating in multiple freight corridors in the Portland metropolitan area. Communities adjacent to the freight corridors are disproportionately impacted by heavy-duty diesel traffic as well as by goods movement operations at intermodal freight facilities.

What are the Environmental Benefits?
Over the remaining lifetime of the 26 affected engines, the new trucks and clean diesel technology are estimated to reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) by 338 tons, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 15 tons, hydrocarbons (HC) by 14 tons, carbon monoxide (CO) by 99 tons, and carbon dioxide (CO2) by 6,871 tons. The reduction of PM2.5 emissions will also reduce black carbon (BC), which influences climate by directly absorbing light, reducing the reflectivity (“albedo”) of snow and ice through deposition, and interacting with clouds.

Who are the Partners on this project?
The project will be led by ODEQ, the state agency with jurisdiction over air quality in Oregon, in partnership with the Oregon Trucking Associations, Port of Portland, Northwest Container Services and six independent trucking companies. ODEQ received the DERA grant award through the EPA’s Request for Funding for Projects to Improve Air Quality at Ports. ODEQ will distribute the grant funds to participating truck fleets and will be responsible for data monitoring and reporting for the project.

What is the Collaborative?
The WCC is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, local, and tribal 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: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the Pacific Islands, Canada and Mexico. The WCC is part of the US EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel).

How can I find out more Information?
For more information on this project, please contact Dan Brown at US EPA (brown.dan@epa.gov / 503-326-6832). For more information on the WCC, please visit our website. www.westcoastcollaborative.org