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

DERA 2016: Hawaii Transit Bus Replacements

The West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is pleased to announce the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) Clean Air Branch’s (CAB’s) receipt of a United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) State Clean Diesel Program grant to replace heavy-duty diesel transit buses. This project will be implemented using $194,787 in DERA grant funding combined with $584,361 in local matching funds.

What is the project?
Replace two Class 5 legacy diesel transit buses operating on the Island of Hawaii.

Why is this project important?
HDOH CAB will partner with Hawaii County transit fleets to replace buses operating in close proximity to areas of the Big Island with high population density. This project will reduce human health risk from toxic pollutants by reducing exposure to heavy-duty diesel transit bus exhaust in the communities where the fleets operate.

What are the environmental benefits?
Over the remaining lifetime of the 2 affected engines, these upgrades will reduce emissions of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 1.1 tons, oxides of nitrogen (NOx) by 16.6 tons, hydrocarbons (HC) by 1.1 tons and carbon monoxide (CO) by 4.7 tons. Additionally, the reduction of PM2.5 emissions will reduce black carbon (BC), which influences climate by directly absorbing light, reducing the reflectivity of albedo through deposition, and interacting with clouds.

How was this project funded?
The WCC provided $194,787 in DERA grant funds combined with $584,361 in matching funds from Hawaii County to enable the implementation of this transit bus replacement project on the Island of Hawaii.

Who were the partners on this project?
The project will be led by HDOH CAB, the governing clean air agency in the State of Hawaii, which received the DERA grant award through the WCC. HDOH CAB will then distribute the DERA grant funds to the Hawaii County transit bus fleet. HDOH CAB will be responsible for data monitoring and reporting for the project.

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

How can I find out more information?
For more information about this project, please contact John Mikulin at US EPA (mikulin.john@epa.gov / 415-972-3956). For more information on the WCC, please visit our website at www.westcoastcollaborative.org.