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Thursday, November 16, 2006

Grant given to buy hybrid utility trucks

P-I STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson delivered a \$250,000 grant Wednesday to a consortium of Western Washington governments to buy "ultraclean" hybrid diesel-electric utility trucks.

Led by King County, the group of 12 cities and counties and the state Department of Natural Resources will kick in \$1.5 million to buy the trucks, which are the kind that have been busy recently fixing power outages caused by storms.

The trucks are expected to produce nearly 40 percent fewer gases that warm the Earth's atmosphere and one-third fewer soot and smog emissions. The hybrid technology will add up to 60 percent to the vehicles' fuel economy and will allow them to shut down their engines and run off battery power when in the field.

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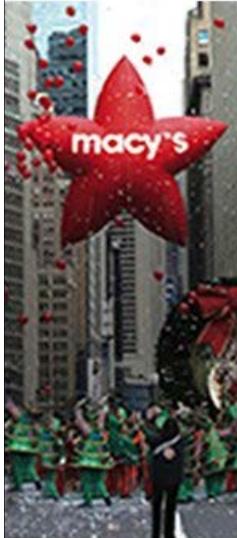
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