

Workgroup Recommendations and Other Potential Control Measures
Diesel Initiatives Workgroup

DI007 – Formalization Process for Choosing Voluntary Diesel Projects

DESCRIPTION

Diesel emissions come from a wide variety of vehicle types and uses, which requires that diesel emission reductions come from a wide variety of strategies. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is implementing many strategies state-wide to reduce diesel emissions, but there is a need to implement voluntary projects at a local level because the health impacts of diesel are often localized. There is also a need to maintain a list of projects so that NJDEP can match the projects with funding and suitable partners when they become available. For example, funding for existing voluntary projects has come from private companies, noncompliance mitigation projects, and several types of USEPA funding (USEPA Region 2 pollution prevention grants, USEPA Region 2 air grants, and USEPA Headquarters' grants).

For these reasons, the NJDEP is developing a process to identify, categorize and prioritize potential diesel emission reduction project ideas. The process requires completion of a Project Information Form (copy attached) which includes basic information about the project, such as description, contact names and information, timelines, cost information and environmental benefits. Estimates are acceptable for all of the information, since actual data is rarely available at the project planning stage. The list of Voluntary Diesel Projects would be made available on StopTheSoot.org, so that the public is aware of potential projects that would benefit their communities, and so that any interested party could volunteer to participate in a project. While NJDEP may take the lead on some of these projects, it is hoped that any citizen, company, or government agency would step forward to implement diesel emission reduction projects, particularly those that have a localized benefit.

IMPLEMENTATION

There are many more potential voluntary diesel projects than NJDEP staffing levels and funding can accommodate. Therefore, it is appropriate to compile lists of projects, then categorize and possibly prioritize projects for funding and implementation. Projects could be categorized by type (e.g., idling, alternative fuel usage, retrofits) or based on criteria such as health benefits, population affected, benefit to environmental justice communities, ease of implementation, or cost/benefit ratio.

COST

The cost to compile a voluntary diesel project list would be minimal, and development of an initial list could be a good project for an NJDEP intern. As new projects are proposed by various stakeholders, the Project Information Form would be completed by the stakeholder(s) and would be added to the master list to be sorted and prioritized. It is not known how much money would be required to fund all of the projects on the list, but it is likely that a total cost would run into the millions of dollars. At the present time, there are many grants available for funding voluntary diesel projects, but NJDEP does not have sufficient staff available to implement and oversee all of these projects.

May 2, 2006
Contact – Peg Hanna

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EFFECTIVENESS

Implementing voluntary diesel projects would likely result in some important localized health benefits. There would be emission reductions associated with implementing these projects, which would vary depending on the scope and type of project.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

Given that there is little cost associated with developing and maintaining a list of voluntary diesel projects, and there is a benefit from having a prioritized list of projects to match with available funding, it seems likely that this strategy would be cost-effective.

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PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Name of project:

Status of project:

Location of project (city, county, and name of property owner if applicable):

Description of the project:

Is this a pilot or prototype? If not, list other similar projects.

Name and contact information of person(s) overseeing and administering the project:

If applicable list the name and contact information for owner(s) of equipment/vehicles/vessels that are the subject of this project:

Has the owner(s) listed above committed to be a partner in this project? If not, indicate anticipated date of commitment.

Summarize the draft workplan and timeline for completion of this project:

Estimated budget (include a breakdown of labor, capital costs, and ongoing maintenance costs)

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Estimated environmental benefits (list separately for each pollutant and provide description of calculations)

Sensitive populations that might benefit from project (senior citizens, children, populations with heart or lung disease):