



# Beyond The Fumes...

Philadelphia Diesel Difference  
(PDD) Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3 -  
Spring 2006

"Beyond The Fumes..." is produced quarterly for use by PDD Working Group Members and interested members of the public to learn the latest regional news relating to clean diesel technologies and projects

## PDD Recognizes Four Platinum-Level Fleets

This has been an exciting season for the Diesel Difference Recognition Subcommittee! It began on April 15th at the Clean Air Council's Annual 5K Run for Clean Air, where the Asthma BUSTers program and SPC/Camden Iron and Metal were honored with Platinum-level recognition for reducing their diesel emissions by 30% or more. Next, Amtrak and North Penn School District were named as PDD's



newest Platinum-level partners at the Air Quality Partnership's Ozone Season Kickoff event on May 12th. All in all, these four fleets accounted for 24 retrofits

(plus five scheduled retrofits which have not yet been completed), and 8 replacements of older engines with newer, cleaner-burning models. North Penn has also

been using Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel fuel in advance of Federal regulations that will mandate its use nationwide later this year.

## DERA Mulled in House, CMAQ in Philly

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies recently completed a budget markup for the upcoming fiscal year, and recommended including approximately \$26 million to fund Diesel Retrofits under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA), roughly half of the amount proposed by the White House and a fraction of the amount authorized under the Energy Bill of 2005. Many local environmental groups are urging their members to contact Congressional representatives to urge full appropriation of DERA at its originally-authorized \$200 million level. Meanwhile, the

Diesel Difference has begun working to support potential diesel projects to be funded under the CMAQ program. A workshop was held in March that brought local and regional planning agencies together to discuss strategies for getting Diesel Retrofit initiatives on the Transportation Implementation Plan (TIP), a necessary step toward obtaining CMAQ funding.

Check in future issues of *Beyond the Fumes* for DERA/CMAQ updates. Or, contact Alison Tracy of AMS at [alison.tracy@phila.gov](mailto:alison.tracy@phila.gov) for more information.

## Inside This Issue

Fleet Focus	2
AQ Partnership	2
Chair	3
Fry-O-Diesel	3
Ports	3
Member News	4

## PDD Calendar

**June 19:** PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)

**June 22:** PDD Ports Task Force Meeting, Clean Air Council Headquarters, 135 South 19th St, Ste. 300 (2:00 pm - 3:00 pm)

**July 17:** PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)

**July 17:** PDD Ports Task Force Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (12:30 pm - 2:00 pm)

**"Forging Partnerships To Reduce Diesel Emissions"**

[www.cleanair.org/dieseldifference](http://www.cleanair.org/dieseldifference)

## FLEET FOCUS: Amtrak

Amtrak has been involved with the Diesel Difference since its inception in 2003, and is a former member of the Executive Committee. This year the company completed its regional retrofit initiative by installing Diesel Oxidation Catalysts on all fourteen of its maintenance vehicles operating in the Philadelphia area. The project was entirely self-funded as part of Amtrak's ongoing efforts to expand environmental stewardship activities in our region. PDD ascertained that the fleet met the 30% emissions reduction necessary for Platinum level status, and Amtrak was presented with a plaque at DVRPC's Air Quality Partnership Kickoff on May 12th. Notably, Amtrak's own Kirt Flowers, who has been an active PDD participant since 2003 was also recently nominated for a John Chafee Environmental Excellence award in honor of his efforts to implement environmentally-conscious technologies in the Railroad Industry.



## Air Quality Partnership Kickoff Educates About Philly Air Quality

Yes, folks, Ozone Season is upon us—that time of year when increased sunlight results in higher, often harmful levels of ground-level ozone. It's also a time when many people are traveling more or spending more time outdoors. This can mean increased health risk, especially for children, seniors, and people with respiratory ailments like asthma.

Administered by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and comprised of 350 public and private entities around the Delaware Valley, the Air Quality Partnership is an organization that aims to reduce health risks by educating area residents and providing daily forecasts to predict which days we can expect air pollution to be most harmful. In addition to its daily forecasts, the Partnership is also working to promote carpooling, reductions in energy use, and other every-



day things all of us can do to lessen the amount of pollution in our air.

At its Kickoff on May 12th at the Independence Mall Visitors Center, the Air Quality Partnership (Formerly the Ozone Action Partnership) held a Clean Air Fair, bringing various groups together to educate the public about a multitude of health- and air quality-related issues. Representatives from the American Lung Association, Asthma BUSTers, Clean Air Council, The Energy Cooperative, Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities, NJ Transit, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PhillyCarShare,

Air Management Services, SEPTA and EPA were all in attendance to distribute educational materials to passersby. A hybrid SEPTA bus and the Asthma Bus even showed up to demonstrate technologies that help improve our city's air.

The event culminated in a press conference where two Philadelphia Diesel Difference member organizations—Amtrak and North Penn School District—were honored with Platinum-level recognition for their work in implementing clean diesel technology on their vehicle fleets.

The Kickoff came just a few days before the start of Air Quality Awareness Week, sponsored by EPA and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Federal government urges all Americans to "Be Air Aware" during the coming months by checking your local air quality forecast.

Visit [dvrpc.org](http://dvrpc.org) or [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) for more information on air quality in your community.

## Fry-O-Diesel on Track for Summer Testing

As many Philadelphians enjoy their summer vacations, a local organization called Philadelphia Fry-O-Diesel will be hard at work testing an exciting new fuel that may pave the way for cheaper and more environmentally-friendly fuel production in the future. They received grant funding from the State of Pennsylvania to develop and test an ASTM-certified biodiesel that is derived from a very low grade restaurant waste. The group will test 4,200 gallons of fuel this summer and fall in various engines such as school buses, heavy duty trucks, and even home heating systems. Their process takes waste grease that has gone down the drain at local eateries and processes it into a cost-competitive biodiesel fuel. Most biodiesel is refined directly from virgin plant oil, which is an expensive raw material. Other processes use higher grade waste grease from restaurants, which can

## Ports Workshop Buoys Mid-Atlantic

In early May, PDD Co-coordinator Clean Air Council hosted the Mid-Atlantic Clean Ports Workshop in Philadelphia to bring local port operators, government agencies, nonprofit groups and others together to discuss issues related to ports in our region. Morning presenters delineated many of the initiatives already underway across the country. In the afternoon, funding opportunities and

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIR:

The Philadelphia Diesel Difference continues to make significant strides in promoting and supporting diesel emissions reduction efforts around the region. In the last several months, four area fleets were awarded Platinum-level recognition for their achievements in reducing their diesel vehicle emissions by 30% or more. The recipients were Asthma BUSTers, SPC/Camden Iron and Metal, Amtrak and the North Penn School District, and they are to be congratulated for their outstanding efforts to improve the quality of Philadelphia's air.

I also want to note that the Diesel Difference facilitated several diesel projects including the use of ULSD for the School District of Philadelphia's buses and portions of the City of Philadelphia's fleet. Both fleets are also working on plans to use settlement funds for diesel retrofit projects.

Finally, the Philadelphia Diesel Difference has reached out to dozens of fleets across the region and obtained written commitments from 13 fleets—totaling 6,000 vehicles—to implement retrofit projects should funding become available. We are hopeful that these pledges will put our region in a strong position to obtain upcoming grants from EPA and other sources.

My thanks go out to our partners and collaborators whose continued efforts sustain our ability to keep this important initiative in the forefront. And to all, my wishes for a pleasant and safe summer.

-Morris Fine, Chair, Philadelphia Diesel Difference

also be expensive. Fry-O-Diesel's new method creates partnerships among restaurants, waste-hauling companies, for-profits and nonprofits to find mutually beneficial ways to turn grease that would have been

wasted into a safe, low-emission fuel that can be blended directly with regular diesel fuel, offsetting imported petroleum and its higher emissions. See [fryodiesel.com](http://fryodiesel.com) for more details.

technological innovations were addressed. Philadelphia Diesel Difference Chair Morris Fine was on hand to talk about how Philadelphia has accessed resources to fund and support local emissions reduction projects. PDD members Brett Alkins of Johnson-Matthey and Peg Hanna of NJDEP also gave presentations.

Clean Air Council took the opportunity to publicize its ongoing effort to purchase diesel retrofits for port equipment using U.S. EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign Funds awarded last year. Currently there is roughly \$90,000 available to fund projects.

Presentations from the event are available at [cleanair.org](http://cleanair.org).

## Philadelphia Diesel Difference (PDD)

c/o Clean Air Council  
Suite 300  
135 South 19th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone: 215-567-4004 x 114  
Fax: 215-567-5791  
E-mail:  
echeung@cleanair.org

The "Beyond The Fumes..." quarterly newsletter was made possible with funding from the City of Philadelphia's Air Management Services and the United States Environmental Protection Agency

# The Philadelphia Diesel Difference Vision

**The Philadelphia Diesel Difference (PDD) Working Group has been formed to help build a coalition of diverse partners with a mutual interest in reducing air pollution from diesel engines in the greater Philadelphia area through voluntary programs and the use of innovative strategies including market-based approaches.**

*PDD is coordinated by the City of Philadelphia's Air Management Services (AMS) and Clean Air Council. Its operational costs are paid through a contract between AMS and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).*



## Member News

### Clean Air Guardians



### Clean Air Protector



### Clean Air Advocate



**The School District of Philadelphia** has now fully implemented its ULSD use program, with the help of Clean Air Council who is administering settlement funding to offset additional costs of the clean-burning fuel.

**The Wissahickon School District** continues to relay great success with its diesel retrofit project. Their entire fleet has operated using ULSD since 2002 and 20 diesel particulate filters installed in 2003 have performed with no reported difficulties. EPA estimates pollutant reductions have averaged over 1 ton/yr.

**Johnson Matthey** has obtained ARB verification for its PCRT Particulate Filter system for 1991-1993 model year on-road diesel engines. The system reduces Particulates by 50%, qualifying it for Level 2 verification.

### Clean Air Partners



Clean Air Council



PDD raised \$5900 in membership dues for 2005. Dues are used to pay for the costs of administering the PDD Program. If your organization is interested in making a contribution, email Eric at echeung@cleanair.org. Every issue will offer short news briefs on selected members.