



Beyond The Fumes...

Philadelphia Diesel Difference
(PDD) Newsletter

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“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

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PDD Calendar

June 18: PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)

July 16: PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)

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

October 15: PDD Meeting, American College of Physicians, 6th and Race Sts. (10:00 am - noon)

“Forging Partnerships To Reduce Diesel Emissions”

www.cleanair.org/dieseldifference

Funding Forum Comes to Philadelphia

Stakeholders from across the northeast and mid-Atlantic gathered this April 23-24 in Center City Philadelphia to discuss the various strategies available for implementing clean diesel projects.

Nearly two dozen speakers and panelists participated in the event— which was sponsored by Regions 1,2, and 3 along with NESCAUM and MARAMA— including several from the Philadelphia Diesel Difference and EPA Region 3. Eric Cheung spoke about the group’s success in implementing National Clean Diesel Campaign funds on its Ports Retrofit Project, and Bill Jones of EPA discussed the grant process and how to design a successful clean diesel project.

Other topics included using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds provided

through the Federal Highway Administration, private funding through revolving loan programs or corporate or nonprofit institutions, and other techniques. Success stories from various areas of the nation were highlighted, including in New York State, where projects such as an alternative fuel waste hauler fleet and a diesel hybrid bus system were able to procure CMAQ support and other sources of funding.

The event also reviewed the Diesel Emissions Quantifier, which is now available through epa.gov. Upcoming EPA grants will require applicants to utilize this tool in order to standardize methods between competing grants.

Presentations from the workshop are now available on MARAMA’s website, located at www.dieselmideatlantic.org.

Ozone Kickoff Highlights Alternative Fuels

At this year’s Ozone Kickoff, an annual event sponsored by the Air Quality Partnership, dozens gathered to raise awareness about the health risks associated with poor air quality, and learn about ways to mitigate risk. Speakers included Glenn “Hurricane” Schwartz, Chief Meteorologist at NBC10, as well as PDD’s own Brinda Shetty of Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities and Alison Tracy of AMS, who announced the

availability of realtime air quality information on the City’s website.

Some of the event’s attendees were also able to take home coupons for \$20 worth of free B20 biodiesel or E85 ethanol which can be redeemed at the site of the event, the 12th and Vine Street Shell Station in Center City. The station is the first in the area to offer both types of fuel.

Ozone Season runs from May until September of each year.

FLEET FOCUS: Lower Merion

Lower Merion School District has been using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in its fleet for more than a decade, and has realized not only a sizeable emissions benefit, but also a considerable decrease in fuel costs over time.

The project, which now runs 69 buses on CNG, has utilized various funding sources including the State of Pennsylvania's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant, and funds from the Department of Energy. The fleet was recognized this year by the Philadelphia Diesel Difference at the Air Quality Partnership's annual Ozone Kickoff. With an overall emissions reduction of nearly 43%, the fleet easily earned itself Platinum status.



Thousands Participate in 26th Annual 5K Run for Clean Air

On April 21st, More than 1200 runners gathered by the Art Museum to participate in the Clean Air Council's 26th Annual Clean Air 5K race. The event is held each year in honor of Earth Day to raise awareness about air quality issues in our area. Among this year's participants were staff members from the Clean Air Council, Philadelphia Clean Cities and Air Management Services.

During the awards ceremony following the race, the Great Valley School District was honored with a platinum-level recognition from the Diesel Difference for its retrofit project and use of cleaner-burning biodiesel fuel.



Eric Cheung of the Clean Air Council and Emily Bockian of the Energy Cooperative were on hand to present PDD's platinum recognition to Great Valley School District.



AMS staff prepare for the race.

Mayor's Local Action Plan Includes Diesel Component

In recent years, Philadelphia has taken a leadership role in several initiatives designed to reduce pollution and promote sustainability. Now, the City has taken another step in drafting its own Local Action

Plan to mitigate the effects of pollution on the health of its citizens and on the rest of the world.

At the request of the Department of Public Health, language was included in the Local Action Plan that

requires contractors for public works construction contracts to minimize idling and implement alternative fuels and other technologies to reduce emissions. The full text of the plan is available on the City's website at www.phila.gov/green.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR:

As Acting Director of Air Management Services and new Chair of the Philadelphia Diesel Difference Working Group, I would like to express my thanks for your kind wishes in welcoming me to the group. I am excited to be working with such a dynamic group of stakeholders who have devoted so much of their time to improving air quality in our City.

In the coming year, I look forward to familiarizing myself with the myriad issues related to control of diesel emissions. A number of projects affiliated with the Diesel Difference are now coming to fruition, and I am hopeful that these successes will help to breed new opportunities for implementing diesel technologies in the Philadelphia area. Due to the hard work of our group, the Philadelphia Port retrofit project has become a reality. In addition, the installation of new biodiesel tank and pump infrastructure for City fleet vehicles will soon be underway, as will the addition of diesel oxidation catalysts to 77 of Philadelphia's fire trucks. These projects will help to significantly reduce diesel particulates and ozone precursors, to the benefit of all Philadelphians.

I am also pleased to hear that our group has been focusing on construction vehicles as part of its plan for crafting future projects. As you may be aware, there is a great deal of major development planned locally that the Diesel Difference Group may be able to impact in a positive way, including casinos, the expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, and construction at the Navy Yard. I anticipate that the Diesel Difference group will continue its past success in addressing emissions from these facilities, both during their construction phase and during normal operations.

-Thomas Huynh, Chair, Philadelphia Diesel Difference

Ports Project Near Completion

The Port of Philadelphia is now a little bit cleaner, thanks to a National Clean Diesel Campaign grant that is funding the installation of a planned 85 diesel oxidation catalysts on yard jockeys and top picks at Packer and Tioga Terminals. So far, 66 units have been installed with the final units expected to be installed soon. Clean Air Council has been overseeing the project and working with their vendor, Cummins, to make sure the installation process goes smoothly. Plans are underway to hold a press event to raise awareness and thank those who have helped to make the project a reality.

Clean School Bus USA Funds Available for FY2008

Across the region, school districts are hard at work preparing applications for this year's round of Clean School Bus USA funds. This grant program covers traditional technologies such as diesel retrofits as well as anti-idling programs and vehicle or engine replacements. The purpose of this program is to protect the health and well being of school children from the effects of diesel pollution that can accumulate inside the bus cabin and outside the bus where children may be present. Children often ride school buses for hours a day and are more susceptible than adults to certain respiratory diseases such as asthma, which can be exacerbated by diesel

pollution. A total of \$680,000 is available through this round of funding, and roughly 2-10 awards are expected with a maximum award of \$400,000. Both publicly owned fleets and private fleets contracted for bus services are eligible to receive funds through this grant.

A number of retrofit technologies are available for installation on school buses. The Diesel Oxidation Catalyst is a tried-and-true standard, but other technologies are increasingly being used to reduce harmful pollution emanating from school buses. Diesel particulate filters can reduce soot by as much as 90 percent, and more and more districts are implementing close

crankcase filtration units that may help to significantly improve ambient air quality within the cabin of the bus. New Jersey has in fact mandated the use of this technology on all school buses operating in the state.

West Chester School District has already received a \$325,000 award under the 2006 Clean School Bus grant to retrofit 65 of its buses with diesel particulate filters.

For more information about Clean School Bus USA, please visit EPA's website at:

www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/

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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



Clean Air Partners



Diesel Difference membership 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.