



# News Release

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## **Ohio EPA Now Co-Leads Diesel Emission Reduction Grants Program** **\$20 Million Available to Replace, Repower, Retrofit and Reduce Idling in Diesel Fleets** ***Grant Proposals for First \$10 Million Due in January***

Ohio EPA will now head up the [Ohio Diesel Emission Reduction Grant \(DERG\) Program](#) in coordination with the Ohio Department of Transportation ([ODOT](#)), Director Scott J. [Nally](#) announced today. Joining him were representatives from ODOT and the Ohio Clean Diesel Coalition which includes the [Ohio Environmental Council](#), [American Lung Association of the Midland States](#), [Ohio Contractors Association](#), Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission ([MORPC](#)) and [Clean Fuels Ohio](#). Director Nally made the announcement at the Columbus store of [Ohio CAT](#), the Caterpillar engine and equipment distributor for the state.

About \$20 million in federal highway [Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality](#) funding for clean diesel projects will be available in 2012 and 2013 to replace, repower, retrofit and reduce idling in eligible public sector diesel fleets (e.g., transit buses, municipal snowplows, school buses, trash trucks) and certain private sector or nonprofit diesel fleets (e.g., long and short haul trucks, locomotives, highway construction equipment). These funds were included in the state budget (HB 153) signed in law earlier this year by Gov. John Kasich.

“The DERG program provides Ohio EPA with an opportunity to partner with ODOT and the Ohio Clean Diesel Coalition to improve air quality and advance new diesel engine technology,” Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally said. “These efforts will help reduce emissions and encourage 21<sup>st</sup> century change in the transportation sector.”

“Ohio EPA is committed to clearing the air of harmful pollution and protecting Ohioans’ health by working with our sister agency, ODOT, and members of the Ohio Clean Diesel Coalition through the DERG program,” said Director Nally, who operated a clean diesel-powered front-end loader at today’s event and observed the rebuild of a diesel engine and other emissions and idle reduction equipment and strategies. “My Agency is excited today to kick off round one of funding under the revamped program. We’re happy to help ODOT bring millions of dollars into Ohio to move these emissions reduction projects forward.”

The DERG program aims to achieve measurable highway emissions reductions; improve air quality and public health; and encourage the transportation sector to clean up diesel fleets and use alternative and cleaner burning fuels. Such efforts save fuel and money and keep Ohioans working on installing environmentally friendly technologies, including graduates of a paid on-the-job technical training [program](#) offered by Owens Community College and the heavy equipment industry.

Ohio EPA now administers the DERG program's private sector grants of \$100,000 or more to cut pollutants like carbon monoxide, smog-forming nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons from transportation emissions in three dozen Ohio [counties](#) not meeting federal clean air quality standards for ozone (smog) and fine particulate matter. Soot particles in diesel exhaust can lodge deeply in the lungs and aggravate respiratory conditions.

[ODOT](#) will continue to administer grants for public sector fleets, as it did the last two years with the [Ohio Department of Development](#) before the state budget bill transferred part of the DERG program to Ohio EPA on July 1, 2011.

DERG [workshops](#) for interested applicants and equipment vendors are being held statewide. MORPC hosted the first information session in Columbus October 17. Additional sessions will be held in [Dayton](#) on November 1, [Cleveland](#) on November 3 and [Toledo](#) on November 4. Proposals for the first \$10 million in grants will be due by mid-January 2012. Private sector fleets must apply through a public sector partner such as a metropolitan planning organization that can attest to the public benefit of the proposed project. A 20 percent local non-federal match is required on all projects. DERG awards will be announced and projects will be contracted by spring 2012. Another round of grants will be available next year with applications due by September 2012.

DERG eligible expenses range from outreach/assistance for diesel owners and operators to installing aerodynamic features and efficient tire technologies on long-haul trucks. Consideration for projects fall under the [six R's of diesel cleanup](#):

- REDUCE fuel use and engine idling;
- REFUEL with cleaner fuels like propane and compressed natural gas;
- RETROFIT existing vehicles with verified pollution control technology;
- REBUILD older diesel engines to reduce emissions;
- REPOWER older diesel engines to remove/replace with a newer, cleaner engine; and
- REPLACE older diesel vehicles and non-road equipment with newer, cleaner vehicles and equipment that meet more stringent emission standards.

[DERG](#) applications can be found online. More information about the grant program is available from Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. More information about eligible clean diesel technologies is available from Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control at (614) 644-2270.