

Northeast
Diesel Collaborative
www.northeastdiesel.org

The **Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC)** combines the expertise of public and private partners in a coordinated regional initiative to significantly reduce diesel emissions from existing fleets in five key sectors: municipal, transit, freight, construction, and ports. Emissions from diesel engines are a primary source of air pollution, pose a significant risk to public health, and impose a high cost on society. The fine particles in diesel exhaust can aggravate asthma, cause lung damage, and even lead to premature death. Twenty-five counties in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York – with more than 21 million people – fail to meet the health-based air quality standard for fine particles, and other urban areas in the region only narrowly meet the standard. The NEDC region has some of the highest asthma rates in the nation, including a childhood asthma rate above 10 percent in all six New England states, near 15 percent in New York City, and 30 percent in parts of Puerto Rico.

To expand clean diesel programs, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions 1 and 2, Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), and the air agencies of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont established NEDC in late 2005. Puerto Rico joined in 2007. NEDC builds upon a decade of success by its partners in reducing diesel emissions through innovative, first-in-the-nation pilot projects, voluntary measures, and mandatory programs.



Recent achievements by NEDC and its partners include:

- As part of a landmark \$22.5 million agreement between the environmental protection and transportation agencies in Massachusetts, *regional transit and school buses statewide* will be equipped with advanced pollution controls.
- Four states have *new laws requiring emission controls on public fleets*, including school buses (CT, NJ, RI), garbage trucks (NJ), all state-owned or contracted vehicles (NY), and municipal vehicles (NJ).
- The New York Metropolitan Air Quality Initiative—a partnership of five counties, EPA, NYSDEC, NYSDOT, USDOT, FHWA, and New York City—is facilitating *county-level adoption of emission reduction measures*, including clean construction equipment, clean vehicle fleets, and idle reduction.
- NEDC partners and stakeholders have developed *model language for promoting clean diesel in construction contracts*. Several public agencies and large institutions now require retrofits on construction projects.
- In the *first two rounds of NEDC funding*, EPA Regions 1 and 2 awarded \$2.8 million to organizations throughout the region to reduce pollution from diesel school buses, construction equipment, and locomotives. The Request for Proposals for the *third round of grants, with funding of \$5.4 million*, is currently available; proposals are due June 12, 2008.
- NEDC partners are working on *two major rail projects*: one will rebuild engines and install anti-idling technology on the entire fleet of locomotives in a regional rail provider; the other will upgrade pre-1973 switchyard locomotives to at least Tier 3 standards.

- New Jersey DEP and NESCAUM are *retrofitting all dockside vehicles and equipment* owned by the South Jersey Port Corporation in Camden.
- NESCAUM, on behalf of NEDC, is *retrofitting 500-600 utility company vehicles* throughout the eight-state region.