



NEWS

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Over \$8 million available to reduce emissions from small Bay Area truck fleets

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing that funding is now available to help Bay Area truck owners reduce emissions and meet upcoming state air quality requirements.

Recent program changes prioritize funding for small fleets of three or fewer trucks, provide for an extended application period, and allow trucks with older engines to participate. **Grant applications must be submitted by December 12 to be considered for funding.**

"Trucks in the Bay Area are a significant source of toxic air pollution in the region, especially in communities around major roadways," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's executive officer. "It's important that truckers know about these funding opportunities to help them meet state air quality deadlines that are crucial for protecting public health in the region."

Heavy-duty vehicles such as trucks and buses are a major source of toxic diesel pollution and greenhouse gases. In the Bay Area, diesel exhaust is estimated to account for over 70 percent of the overall cancer risk from toxic air pollution.

The Air District currently has \$8.2 million in funding available for non-port trucks engaged in goods movement activities. This funding can be used to replace trucks with 2006 or older engines with those equipped with 2010 or newer engines, or to replace engines in existing trucks. Grant amounts of up to \$50,000 are available, depending on the project details. While funding priority will be given to small fleets, large fleets are still encouraged to apply. Grant funding will be provided in 2014 and all projects must be completed by December 31, 2014.

Project applications and additional program information are available on the Air District's website at www.baaqmd.gov/goods. For assistance completing the online application, contact staff at 415-749-4994 (select option 1) or via e-mail at grants@baaqmd.gov.

Loan assistance for both port and non-port truck owners looking to retrofit or replace their trucks is available through the California Air Resources Board's Providing Loan Assistance for California Equipment (PLACE) program. Information on the loan program can be found by calling 1-866-634-3735 or by visiting www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truckstop/funding/loans_fa.htm.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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