



Fact Sheet

Diesel Clean-Up Program

Innovative strategies to help improve air quality for school children, the elderly, and our communities.

The Problem



The exhaust coming out of the tailpipe of a diesel-powered vehicle not only looks and smells bad, it is also bad for your lungs.

Diesel engines are a source of many different dangerous air pollutants which affect human health and our community's ability to meet federal clean air standards. Particulate pollution which is also known as soot, can penetrate deep in the lungs and trigger breathing ailments and heart attacks.

Health officials link diesel emissions to serious health effects including a compromised immune system,

aggravated asthma and allergy symptoms, heart and lung disease, cancer and even preventable deaths.

Federal rules enacted in 2007 require newly manufactured diesel engines to be much cleaner; however, the aging vehicles currently on the road will continue to pollute our air for decades.

As one of the Midwest's top environmental advocacy organizations, the Ohio Environmental Council has developed innovative projects and pragmatic policy strategies to improve air quality by reducing pollution from Ohio's fleet of old, dirty diesel vehicles.

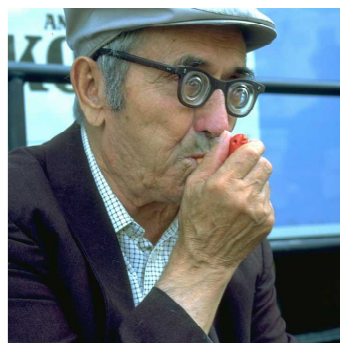
Diesel Health Impacts

- Aggravated asthma & allergy symptoms
- Chronic bronchitis
- Heart & lung disease
- Cancer
- Premature death

Environmental Impacts

- Crop & forest damage
- Acid rain
- Eutrophication of waterways
- Smog
- Preventable death
- Climate change

People Most at Risk



- Children
- Asthmatics
- Occupationally exposed workers
- People with existing respiratory problems
- Elderly

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Innovation



Thanks to our Clean School Bus Program, thousands of kids are breathing a little easier on their bus rides to school each year.

The OEC is working with school districts to develop clean-up plans and has secured more than \$2.5 million in funding to retrofit more than 250 school buses with state-of-the-art emission controls.

When paired with ultra low-sulfur fuel, diesel particulate filters reduce emissions by up to 90%.

The OEC also works with districts to implement the “6R’s” of diesel clean up: **Refuel** with cleaner fuels; **Replace** older vehicles; **Repower** older engines; **Reduce** idling; **Repair**; and **Retrofit** with emission controls.

Education & Outreach

Franklin County

From 2005-2008, with the support of the Clifford & Mary Ozias Forestry and Conservation Fund of the Columbus Foundation, the OEC created the Franklin County Diesel School Bus Working Group. Comprised of eight central Ohio public school districts, the Working Group formulates strategies to address the impacts of diesel exhaust on students and the community.

Stark County

In 2007, with support from the Stark Community Foundation and the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation, the OEC created the Stark County Diesel School Bus Working Group. Comprised of 17 districts, the Working Group develops clean-up plans to reduce diesel exhaust exposure. The project improves local air quality, assists cash-strapped schools, and benefits public health—primarily school children that are exposed to elevated levels of diesel particulate pollution.

Policy Leadership

The OEC worked closely with U.S. Senator George Voinovich (R-OH) and industry to craft the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2005. This landmark legislation authorizes a \$1 billion grant and loan fund to retrofit diesel school buses, trucks, construction equipment, and other diesel vehicles with controls to dramatically cut air pollution.

The OEC, working with industry, health groups, and metropolitan planning organizations, was successful in urging the State of Ohio government to form the Ohio Diesel Emission Reduction Grant program which targets diesel fleets for retrofitting, replacing, repowering, and anti-idling technologies.

Partnerships



The Ohio Environmental Council values its partnerships with various groups in the fight to clean up dirty diesel engines. The OEC is part of the Ohio Diesel Coalition, which is comprised of environmental and health groups, metropolitan planning organizations, and industries whose mission is to promote cleaning up diesel engines.

The OEC aided in the creation of, and funding for, the Ohio Diesel Emission Reduction Grant Program which is administered by the Ohio Department of Development. This grant program covers retrofit equipment, idle reduction technologies, replacements, and equipment repowers.

The Ohio Environmental Council is also:

- part of the national campaign to clean up diesel engine pollution organized by the Clean Air Task Force.
- working with municipalities across Ohio in cleaning up dirty diesel city fleets through idle reduction, education, and grant assistance.
- a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5's Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative whose goal is to reduce the emissions from one million diesel engines by 2010.
- a partner in Clean Fuels Ohio's Ohio Green Fleets Program, which recognizes fleets that have cleaned up and encourages other fleets to take steps to green their fleet.
- working with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to encourage city fleets to go green. The OEC is urging municipalities to adopt city-wide fuel conservation ordinances.
- urging the state and federal governments to adopt "green" language in construction contracts.

The Future

The Ohio Environmental Council is part of the National Diesel Cleanup Campaign, comprised of more than 300 group supporters. The goal of the campaign is to reduce direct fine particulate matter emissions by 40% by 2012, 55% by 2015, and 70% by 2020. This would save tens of thousands of lives across the U.S.

Currently, the OEC works with the cities of Worthington, Parma Heights, Cleveland Heights, Cleveland, Columbus, Canton, and the Columbus Regional Airport Authority to implement the "6 R's" of diesel clean up.

The Ohio Environmental Council also works to ensure there are diesel clean up grant funds available to Ohio fleets at both the state and national levels.