Feedback from NJ Clean Construction Contractors

One of the earliest participants was Atlantic Concrete Cutting, Inc. of Mount Holly, N.J. They received approval to retrofit a Dimas PGM-3000 and a Dimas PC390 Grinder/Groover, both using Caterpillar Continuously Regenerating Technology (CRT) devices. “Atlantic Concrete Cutting is pleased and proud to support clean air and protection of our environment by participating in the NJ Clean Construction program.”

J. Fletcher Creamer & Son’s Service Center Director reported “...this retrofit program [is] so easy to implement. After finding out the initial data about this program and what needed to be done to complete these retrofits, I had the misconception that this procedure would significantly impact my utilization of the specific units. After going through the process several times now, I can complement you [NJDEP] and the entire group at Foley [state vendor] in making this retrofit completely pain free. Everyone worked with our construction schedules and all deadlines were met.”

The New Jersey Clean Construction program, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and begun by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection in 2009 to reduce emissions of construction equipment by installing tailpipe retrofit projects, has spent over $2 million to improve air quality in New Jersey. Focusing on urban areas, and now in support of the Governor’s Executive Order # 60, focus of the remaining grant funds is on NJ Department of Transportation projects. Previously completed projects also included those funded by Site Remediation and N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust. N.J. Clean Construction has grown to include 33 projects in urban areas, 33 volunteer construction contractors, and 137 devices retrofitted onto 105 pieces of construction equipment.

These retrofits were targeted at urban areas where pollutant levels are often the highest and exposure to diesel emissions the greatest. Vehicles and equipment with the heaviest use also received priority for funding.

Background

Non-road diesel vehicles contribute more than twice as much diesel particulate matter to the air than do on-road diesel vehicles, and are the #1 cause of cancer in New Jersey. These pollutants affect those people using the equipment, and others who live and work in the area. Unlike the cars and trucks that most people drive, diesel vehicles do not come with emission control technologies already installed to reduce these harmful emissions, so add-on retrofits need to be installed.
Types of Retrofits and Equipment

At the current time, retrofits completed under NJ Clean Construction are limited to devices offered under the competitively-bid contracts. These devices can be used on construction equipment with greater than 100 horsepower. Only devices that have been verified by the USEPA or the California Air Resources Board (CARB) are approved for installation, with preference given to retrofits that are verified for non-road applications. Both active and passive diesel particulate filters are available. Retrofits have been installed on forklifts, loaders, excavators, pavers and cold milling machines.

What steps are involved in program participation?

Currently, participation in NJ Clean Construction is limited to construction companies who have been awarded publicly-bid NJDOT projects. Participants in this program select a vendor from a state contract, complete a “data-logging” process to analyze how that particular piece of equipment is used in the field, and have retrofits installed on their vehicle at a time convenient to meeting their contractual obligations. All costs of installation and devices are funded by N.J. Clean Construction. Volunteers are required to keep the retrofits functioning on the equipment for a minimum of five years, although most contractors plan to keep them for the life of the equipment to meet local and state contracting requirements.

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