

## PA STATE CLEAN DIESEL GRANT PROGRAM

### Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria to Fund Retrofit, Engine Upgrade, Re-power, Replace, and Install Idle Reduction Equipment

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is offering reimbursement grant funding for mobile source diesel emission reduction projects in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The primary goal of the Pennsylvania State Clean Diesel Grant Program is to improve Pennsylvania's air quality by decreasing emissions from diesel-powered mobile sources. DEP will consider projects in all of the categories listed below.

School districts, municipal authorities, political subdivisions, incorporated nonprofit entities, other state agencies, corporations, limited liability companies or partnerships incorporated or registered in the Commonwealth may receive funding to support projects that: re-power or retrofit fleet vehicles to lower emissions of pollutants; purchase and install idle reduction technology; purchase clean alternatively-fueled fleet vehicles; upgrade engines; or re-power diesel-powered vehicles to alternative fuel vehicles. For additional information, please refer to DEP's [PA State Clean Diesel Grant Program Guidance and Application](#). It can be found at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us>; use keyword "clean diesel."

- **Eligible applicants** – Organizations that operate diesel-powered fleets throughout the Commonwealth. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to the following:
  - **Businesses** – corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, limited liability companies, business trusts or other legal business entities incorporated in the Commonwealth
  - **Nonprofit Corporations** – incorporated nonprofit organizations
  - **Municipal Authorities, School Districts, and other State Agencies**
  - **Political Subdivisions** – Pennsylvania municipalities or counties
  
- **Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:**
  - Purchase and installation of retrofit technologies (exhaust controls and engine upgrades) certified or verified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the California Air Resources Board (CARB); this may be a single technology or a combination of technologies
  - Purchase of compressed natural gas (CNG) or hybrid-electric (HEV) or vehicles that use other types of alternative fuels that will replace existing diesel-powered vehicles and reduce emissions
  - Re-powering vehicles with newer diesel or alternative fuel engines that will lower air emissions
  - Purchase and installation of EPA- or CARB-verified idle reduction technology
  
- **Projects that are not eligible include:**
  - Projects already completed or started prior to submitting an application to DEP
  - Projects located entirely outside of Pennsylvania
  - Projects that are intended for fleet expansion
  - The replacement or re-powering of vehicles that are beyond their useful lifespan
  - The purchase and installation of vehicle infrastructure (e.g., CNG refueling station)
  - The repair or salvaging of a disabled vehicle
  - Projects that were previously funded by a different grant program
  - Projects that convert from one alternative fuel to another alternative fuel
  
- **Projects must comply with the following in order to be funded:**
  - Project site(s) must be physically located in Pennsylvania.
  - For any vehicle(s) designated for retrofit, engine upgrade, re-power, or replacement, the majority of their annual operation time must occur within the Commonwealth.
  - For vehicles that are being replaced or re-powered, the old engine(s) must be scrapped.

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- **Eligible projects cannot use funding for the following:**
  - Preparation of the PA Clean Diesel Program grant application
  - Land acquisition
  - Scheduled or routine maintenance and repairs due to accidents or neglect
  - Permit fees
  - Vehicle title, registration and inspection fees
  - Ground service and landscaping
  - Business start-up costs and advertising
  - Indirect costs (i.e., general administrative and overhead, contingency funds, etc.)
  - Travel, lodging and subsistence costs
  - Conference or meeting expenses including catering, conference equipment and room rental, and any other cost not deemed acceptable to DEP

### Application Evaluation

DEP will conduct a comprehensive review of the grant application and supporting documentation (e.g., cost estimates). DEP will not accept or review an application that is incomplete or contains inaccurate information. All complete applications will be reviewed and evaluated by DEP using the criteria defined below.

#### Evaluation Considerations

- Environmental benefits and emissions reduction
- Potential to reduce conventional energy consumption
- Potential for the creation or retention of jobs
- Technical (proven proposed technology) and financial feasibility
- Cost-effectiveness
- Number of vehicles
- Whether the applicant has demonstrated that the project can be completed
- The amount of matching funds; letters of financial commitment documenting matching funds or in-kind services should be provided to verify matching fund claims. (Note: Letters supporting the project are not considered letters of financial commitment for matching funds)
- If the project is located or operates predominately within an area that is designated by the EPA as either nonattainment or maintenance for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) or ozone
- Whether the project will use a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, which includes disadvantaged, minority-owned, women-owned and small business enterprises
- Promotion and use of Pennsylvania businesses, products and services when prices are competitive
- If the project is located on a brownfield (a vacant, previously utilized site) or building in a designated Environmental Justice site
- All projects must be consistent with the applicable provisions of the Keystone Principles for Growth, Investment and Resource Conservation; a description of the Keystone Principles is available at: [www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp/pkp.pdf](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp/pkp.pdf)

#### DEP Assistance and Contacts

Questions regarding the grant program and application materials:  
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