



WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE

A public-private partnership to reduce diesel emissions

The goal of the Collaborative is to leverage significant federal funds to reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in the most affected communities. The Collaborative seeks to significantly improve air quality and public health by targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective control strategies.

West Coast Collaborative

The West Coast Collaborative aims to leverage federal funds to strategically reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in impacted communities and to significantly improve air quality and public health. By targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective strategies, the benefits from the Collaborative are estimated to significantly outweigh the costs.

What is the Collaborative?

- A partnership among leaders from federal, state and local government, the private sector, and environmental groups along the West Coast.
- An integral part of EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign.
- A forum for information sharing and diesel emission reduction strategies in six sector workgroups—Rail, Trucking, Construction, Agriculture, Marine, and Public Fleets.
- Coordinator of regional efforts for cleaner fuels, such as biodiesel.

How has the Collaborative succeeded?

Since June 2004, the Collaborative has granted over \$15 million in EPA funds leveraging more than \$45 million from Collaborative partners to implement 108 projects along the West Coast. These projects will have immediate and significant benefits for public health, and will help to advance new technologies and approaches for the future.

The Collaborative has brought together over 1,000 partners, and reached out across international borders into Canada and Mexico, to discuss, raise attention, and address the public health concern of reducing diesel emissions.

How is the Collaborative reducing diesel emissions?

Collaborative partners are implementing projects that achieve large-scale, regional diesel emissions reductions including:

- truck idle reduction projects along the West Coast Interstate Corridors,
- locomotive idle reduction projects at major switcher yards in the West,

- port shoreside engine retrofits, demonstrating new ship based reduction technologies and a comprehensive strategy to implement onshore power (cold-ironing) at major ports along the West Coast,
- cleaner fueling infrastructure along major Western transportation
- corridors supporting biofuels production and use along with clean agricultural practices and technologies, and
- construction equipment retrofits and cleaner fuel use for large scale highway construction projects partnering with the Federal Highway Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program.

It is estimated that the health benefits from diesel emissions reductions outweigh the costs by a ratio of 13-to-1. In addition, for every federal dollar the Collaborative spends on diesel emission reductions, Collaborative partners have contributed one to ten times that amount. For example, a \$25 million federal investment would leverage at least \$25 million in matching funds from Collaborative partners, and would likely achieve an estimated \$650 million in health benefits for the public at large.

Not only will investments in diesel emission mitigation lead to health benefits; investments in new diesel emission reduction technologies will also lead to economic development opportunities.

Why is it important to reduce diesel emissions?

Emissions from diesel engines contribute to unhealthy levels of fine particles and ozone (or "smog") and air toxics. Fine particles have been associated with an increased risk of premature death, hospital admissions for heart and lung disease, increased adverse respiratory symptoms such as asthma, and other adverse health effects. Long-term exposure to diesel exhaust may pose a lung cancer hazard to humans.

Many of the Western states have made reducing emissions from diesel engines a priority because diesel emissions have serious impacts on childhood asthma. Children are more susceptible to air pollution than healthy adults because their respiratory systems are still developing and they have a faster breathing rate. Recurrent childhood respiratory illness is a risk factor for increased susceptibility to lung disease later in life.

How can I find out more about the Collaborative?

For more information about the West Coast Collaborative, please visit our web site at www.westcoastcollaborative.org.