



Date: October 11, 2005
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Lane County Media: 05-16

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LRAPA Wins \$500,000 Grant Award for Diesel Emission Reductions

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced that LRAPA has won a \$500,000 grant award to further the agency's efforts to reduce diesel emissions from tractor-trailer rigs running along the I-5 corridor.

The project is two-fold. It helps equip an additional 250 trucks with small power units that allow the trucks to save diesel and reduce emissions while idling, and includes a GPS (global positioning system) mapping system to determine where trucks are traveling and how many hours the small engines are actually in use.

"We are excited about this award, which allows us to continue our work to reduce diesel emissions in our state," said Kim Metzler, LRAPA spokeswoman. "Without outside funding, we would not be able to do this innovative work."

Of the 250 trucks equipped, 100 will be fitted with tracking equipment that will be used to study air quality improvements throughout the region. The tracking equipment will allow LRAPA to establish baseline emissions prior to installation and again after two years of use with the new equipment; will track the number of hours the equipment was used; where the equipment was used; amount of fuel saved; and total emissions reduced.

LRAPA has partnered with the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) to collect and analyze the GPS mapping system data. LRAPA, in coordination with LCOG will provide the results to EPA.

EPA will use results from the study to demonstrate real air pollution reductions in an effort to give states and regions another strategy for meeting federal air quality standards. Transportation has proven to cause nearly one-half of all air pollution in metropolitan areas. Diesel-related pollution is of special concern because of its highly respirable particulate emissions, ozone precursors (nitrogen oxides) and its numerous carcinogenic compounds.

EPA funded this project in part due to LRAPA's proven track record with diesel projects. LRAPA has already helped nearly 100 truck owners install the fuel-saving units on their trucks, saving about 200,000 gallons of diesel per year collectively, and resulting in reduction of nearly 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide, a major green house gas, from being released into the air. That number will more than double when this project is completed.

(More)

Through a partnership with the Oregon Department of Energy, LRAPA has been able to offer the fuel-saving equipment to truck drivers through a lease-to-buy program. Truckers have up to five years to pay for the equipment, which saves the owner about \$400 per month in fuel expenses.

“LRAPA was one of several agency’s nationwide to win an award, and the only recipient of an award in Oregon. We’re very pleased that EPA believes in our work, and trusts that we’re up to the task of this project,” Metzler said.

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