



The High Price of Dirty Diesel

2019 is the time to invest in a cleaner, healthier future for all Oregonians

Diesel exhaust: Uniquely toxic pollution

Diesel exhaust from heavy-duty engines is uniquely toxic and is one of Oregon's worst air quality problems.

All Oregonians—particularly children, elders, and people with health challenges—are susceptible to the effects of diesel exhaust on heart, lung, and brain health. Diesel pollution costs Oregon billions each year in health care, lost work days, and lost lives.

Black carbon in diesel pollution also worsens climate change right here at home, causing snow melt and warmer temperatures.

Oregon has fallen behind neighboring states—both California and Washington— that have invested millions in helping engine owners ease the transition to clean trucks, buses and construction equipment. Now is the time to take action.

Oregon has a rare chance to clean up

Due to a recent \$72 million legal settlement, the 2019 Oregon legislature has the opportunity to invest significant funds into diesel clean-up. OEC and partners advocated for \$18 million to be dedicated to school bus upgrades. The remaining \$52 million has yet to be allocated.

Simply distributing the money for new engines will not solve our diesel problem. To truly protect Oregonians' health, we must set a firm timeline to retire and renew our diesel fleet. Once that timeline is set, we need strong policy to ensure that funds are used wisely to help engine owners ease the transition.

And during the transition, we must do all we can to protect people—especially those most vulnerable—from exposure to diesel pollution.



An Oregon state bill in 2019 would:

- Put a stop to buying and selling the dirtiest engines
- Give local governments power to restrict engine idling
- Set a timeline for retiring or cleaning up old commercial truck and bus engines
- Apply settlement funds, and seek additional funding, to help engine owners meet the timeline
- Ensure that women and minority-owned businesses are supported to meet the timeline



Oregon's current diesel programs

Without a timeline for retiring old engines, the modest efforts to address diesel pollution are not enough to protect the health of all Oregonians.

School buses:

In 2017, Oregon dedicated \$18 million to replace 450 school buses so that the entire fleet is on track to meet strong standards by 2025.

Federal incentives to retire engines:

Oregon receives modest federal funds for an incentive program to retire old engines. The amount of funds available varies from year to year. Since 2008, the program has retired about 66 trucks and 69 construction equipment engines.

Local government programs:

In December 2018, Portland passed a clean construction standard for engines used on city-funded projects. Multnomah County and others are likely to follow.

Non-road inventory:

Oregon knows a lot about how trucks and buses run: the time, location, speed and number of engines. But we don't have that information for construction and other non-road engines. Oregon is in the process of making an inventory.

What we need for a healthier future

A renewed diesel fleet: By modernizing Oregon's bus, truck, and transit fleets with engines that are 95% cleaner, we can move freight more efficiently while delivering benefits to public health and our climate. Incentives can help with upfront costs of new engines that operate with lower maintenance costs and down-time than old engines.

Big benefits for air quality: Old heavy-duty diesel vehicles aren't the only source of traffic pollution—but they are the dirtiest. Although old heavy-duty diesel vehicles make up only a small portion of road traffic, they contribute the majority of particulates and NOx pollution from traffic.

Immediate benefits for climate: Black carbon, making up about 70% of the particulate emissions from diesel engines, causes powerful short term and local climate effects. Reducing black carbon now can provide climate change relief in our state even as we seek global solutions for the long-term.

Returns on the dollar for health: Every dollar invested in clean engines is expected to return \$12 in health benefits (such as reduced hospital costs). Oregon can save billions in health harm and avoid hundreds of premature deaths each year by retiring old heavy-duty engines.

Health benefits that last a lifetime: Children, infants, and pregnant women are especially vulnerable to harm from air pollution. Reducing the early exposures that cause irreversible harm can improve health outcomes over a lifetime.



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