

To: MDC Stakeholders
From: Susan Stephenson (MDC/MARAMA)
Bill Jones (EPA Region 3)
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Subject: MDC October Update



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[Searchable Database for Verified Diesel Emission Control Systems Released](#)

CARB released a searchable database for verified diesel emission control systems. The database is searchable by device name (DECS name), engine family name, or a less specific search by engine model year, engine manufacturer, and displacement. The database currently includes California certified 1992 and newer on-road engines, and 1996 and newer off-road engines.

Additional model years will continue to be added. The database will be updated on a regular basis, and any corrections will be made as necessary.

The database can be accessed [here](#).

["Dragon Power" Helps Students in the Middle Peninsula of Virginia Breathe Cleaner Air](#)

Virginia Delegate Harvey Morgan will help celebrate the commitment made by four Middle Peninsula school districts to clean up the air and school bus diesel emissions at 1 p.m. on October 11, 2008 during the fourth annual Dragon Run Day at Thousand Trails Campground in Gloucester County.

For the full release click [here](#).

[EPA Begins Rolling Out Clean Diesel Funding](#)

Under the \$50 million Diesel Emission Reduction Program, EPA announced the first \$3.4 million in funding to help small trucking firms lower their fuel costs and carbon footprints. The \$3.4 million went to three small trucking firms and will be distributed through innovative loans and rebates. The organizations receiving funds under the national diesel program are: the Community Development Transportation Lending Services in

Washington, D.C., Cascade Sierra Solutions in Oregon, and Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association in Missouri.

EPA will also begin disbursing \$14.8 million for State Clean Diesel programs to all 50 states and 35 states will put matching resources toward the program. Later this fall, EPA's ten Regional offices will distribute \$27.6 million in grants and later this winter, grant awards for emerging technologies totaling approximately \$3.4 million will be announced. Through this program EPA hopes to improve air quality and protect public health.

For more information about EPA diesel funding, click [here](#).

Hybrid Yard Locomotives to Debut at the Virginia Port Authority

With the help of a grant from EPA, the Virginia Port Authority purchased three low-emissions, hybrid yard locomotives for use at the Norfolk International Terminals. A road or yard switcher is the workhorse in the train-building process, they push heavy loads short distances at low speeds, make frequent stops, operate in forward and reverse and sit idle for long periods as they wait for railcars to be sorted. The new units will save an estimated \$143,000 in annual fuel expenditures and have the ability to reduce nitrogen oxide and particulate emissions by between 80 and 90 percent, both of these pollutants are direct contributors to bad air quality.

To learn more about hybrid switchers at the Virginia Port Authority, click [here](#).

Course on Ultrafine Diesel Particles and Retrofit Technologies for Diesel Engines Offered in California

A three day course on the successful application of diesel particulate filter systems to diesel engines is being offered by the California Air Resource Board (CARB) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). The course will also cover various research into ultrafine particles (less than 0.1 micron in diameter) in ambient air and the health risks they pose along with coarse particles (PM₁₀) or fine particles (PM_{2.5}). The course will be held November 12-14th at the South Coast AQMD Headquarters in California. Off-site demonstration of retrofit installations on specific vehicles is also offered.

For more information about what is offered and how to sign up, click [here](#).

EPA's State and Local Toolkit for Building Clean Diesel Programs: A Helpful Resource for Reducing Diesel Emissions Now Available

Are you interested in beginning a program that reduces diesel engine emissions? If so, then the EPA State and Local Toolkit will prove to be a valuable resource. This toolkit is a compilation of examples and procedures designed to help state, regional, and local governments improve air quality and public health through diesel engine emission reduction efforts. The toolkit was created particularly for those states and localities participating in the National Clean Diesel Campaign Stage Grant Program and/or the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. The toolkit includes information about building support, program design, funding, and evaluation techniques. Also included in the toolkit are outreach and education materials that have been used in other programs, links to state funding sources, and information about claiming emissions credits in air quality plans.

Click [here](#), to check out EPA's State and Local Toolkit.

Hybrid Buses to hit the Streets of Baltimore Maryland

In an effort to reduce harmful emissions and noise, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) will only purchase hybrid-electric powered buses in the future as the agency retires older diesel powered models. As a result, up to 500 hybrid-electric powered buses will be on the street by 2014. The MTA's plans would convert 75 percent of its fleet to hybrids, which will use 20 percent less fuel and cut particulate emissions by up to 90 percent within six years. The State's experience with the first 10 hybrids has been highly positive. The MTA said the new buses can go 6,000 miles between maintenance stops, while diesel buses need maintenance work every 3,300 miles. MTA Administrator Paul Wiedefeld said the hybrids cost about \$580,000, compared with \$385,000 for diesel buses, but with savings on fuel and operating costs, the hybrids make up the difference within two years. Maryland is also striving to increase the number of vehicles using alternative fuels or hybrid technology to 40 percent by 2010. Today, 20 percent of all new vehicle purchases meet the federal alternative fuel standard and a total of 40 vehicles in the State's fleet are hybrid. By 2011, the goal is to have a total of 140 hybrids in the State fleet.

To read more about Maryland's plans for a cleaner mass transit fleet, click [here](#).

New Updates for the MDC School Bus and Construction Pages

MDC has updated its School Bus and Construction Forum pages. The updated Construction Forum page includes more reports/brochures, contract specification language, case studies, and federal regulations. The new School Bus Forum page has more information about reducing diesel exhaust and a new biodiesel section.

Click [here](#) to view the School Bus page and [here](#) for the Construction page. Please let us know if we should add a link or any information to the pages.

As MDC continues to update the website please remember that it is important to "refresh" your machine on a regular basis. We have automated our "last updated" section on the bottom of each page. So every time we make a change to the page this date will automatically change.

Reminder – Sign up to receive workgroup specific information

If you would like to receive forum specific emails such as call agendas, funding notices, etc. please send [Susan Stephenson](#) or [Bill Jones](#) an email and we will add you to the appropriate group. The next round of MDC Forum calls will be held in the beginning of December.