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AIR QUALITY, ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY

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Frequently Asked Questions About the New Jersey Clean Construction Grant Program

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is among the national leaders in its efforts to reduce diesel emissions. Diesel-powered engines, such as those found in trucks and buses, are responsible for a significant amount of the particulate pollution in New Jersey, which can disproportionately affect people in densely populated high traffic areas, especially in urban centers.

Reducing this type of pollution will have a positive effect on air quality within the State. To help accomplish this goal, the NJDEP is partnering with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to fund a program that will install pollution control devices on, or replace, off-road diesel vehicles across New Jersey to lower these harmful emissions.

Presently, the NJDEP's Equipment Modernization Program currently has funding for the following: non-road diesel replacements, marine engine replacements, and on-road electrification projects (contingent upon open solicitations).

1. What are the benefits of participating?

- Off-road diesel vehicles contribute more than twice as much diesel particulate matter to the air than that of on-road diesel vehicles. This increase in air pollutants is breathed in by those people using the equipment, and others who live and work in the area.
- For off-road diesel vehicles, replacing these vehicles with new pieces of Tier 4 equipment that have emissions control devices on them results in a large decrease in emissions. Replacements will be funded by the grant up to 30% of the cost of the new vehicle.

- Newer off-road diesel vehicles emit less NOx and PM 2.5 into their environment, creating a healthier presence among those with air quality sensitivities.

2. What are the requirements of the program?

- Under the Equipment Modernization Program, DEP utilizes a variety of funding sources with funding-specific requirements. Nevertheless, in order to participate in a grant project with DEP, the core requirements are:
 - Fill out a Project Information Form in its entirety and submit it to the DEP Project Manager
 - Once you have been approved for a grant project with DEP, you will need to then fill out an Application Form in its entirety; this form is required as the fields provided in the form are fields the Project Manager needs to complete a Grant Agreement
 - When both the Project Information Form and Application Form have been filled out, the DEP Project Manager will request from you 3 price quotes for the new equipment you want to purchase.

NOTE: the DEP and the Bureau of Mobile Sources adhere to all State and Federal procurement laws, which state that whether a private entity or a municipality, a Grantee must obtain at minimum 3 price quotes for new equipment. For more specific information, please refer to the [NJ Local Public Contracts Law and Regulation Reference Manual](#)

3. What steps are involved in program participation?

- Any company that believes they meet the eligibility criteria above and is interested in participating is encouraged to fill out an application form, available at www.StopTheSoot.org/eoi.htm. When an application is selected for award, the vehicle owner will obtain a minimum of three price quotes for replacement vehicles. The replacement vehicles must be the same type of vehicle (i.e., dozer or excavator) of the same horsepower range as the vehicle being replaced. Once approved by NJDEP, and a contract has been executed between the NJDEP and equipment owner, the vehicle owner can then purchase the new piece of equipment. Before reimbursement can occur, proof of decommission of the old equipment (ie, holes drilled into the engine block and chassis cut) must be submitted, along with a Post Installation Verification Form.

4. What types of equipment are eligible to participate?

- Non-road equipment that are powered by diesel engines can be eligible for participation in this program. This includes construction, port, and airport ground support equipment. Equipment is subject to federal requirements, which may restrict model years and tier levels. Priority will be given to equipment operating in urban areas and to vehicles with high usage hours.
- Marine engine replacement funding is also currently available.
- If these deadlines are missed, approval for participation may be revoked and any costs incurred be the responsibility of the vehicle owner.

5. What is the average timeline of a project?

- Typically, projects can take up to a few months to reach completion. It all depends on how quickly price quotes can be obtained and sent to the Project Manager and how quickly the applicant can sign their end of the Grant Agreement form.
- Project completion also depends upon delivery of the new equipment and how long it will take, as photographic proof will be needed of the new equipment for the applicant to receive reimbursement.

6. How much will I be reimbursed?

- Applicants can receive a reimbursement up to 30% for non-road diesel vehicle replacements and up to 40% for marine engine replacements. Reimbursement percentages vary based on available funding opportunities.

7. Whom should I contact for more information?

- For forms and other information on this grant opportunity, go to www.StopTheSoot.org/eoi.htm. If you have any questions on the program, please contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Mobile Sources:

8. How does the decommission process work?

- In order to be reimbursed for your project, you will need to decommission a currently operational diesel vehicle and provide proof of the work. Therefore, we require photographic proof of the

replacement equipment's engine block **both before and after** drilling a 3" by 3" hole in the block.

- We also require photographic proof of the replacement equipment from a side profile, displaying the chassis **both before and after** disabling the chassis by cutting completely through the frame/frame-rails on each side of the equipment at a point located between the front and rear axles
- Finally, digital photos of the VIN tag OR Equipment Serial Number, as well as the Engine Label showing: Engine Serial Number, Engine Family Number, EPA Engine Family Number (if visible), and Engine Model Year

9. How many price quotes do I need to purchase my vehicle?

- Following state and federal procurement rules, we require that all grantees must obtain and submit a minimum of three separate price quotes for their equipment costs. These price quotes must be from three separate vendors/companies. The requirement for three price quotes can be waived if the applicant utilizes a NJ Cooperative Purchasing site (Co-op). If doing so, the grantee may submit the single price quote from the cooperative. Sourcewell is a popular site that can provide co-op vendors.
- For more information on state procurement rules and guidelines, please refer to the [NJ Local Public Contracts Law and Regulation Reference Manual](#)

10. Do I need to select the lowest bidder?

- State and federal procurement laws dictate that a grantee must choose the bid of the lowest cost; however, if a grantee wants to choose a particular vendor, they may submit a formal request outlining the specific reasons why they must choose this vendor. Once, they make their final selection, we require the grantee to provide justification for their choice.

11. What if the lowest bid is not fit for my project?

- If the lowest bided quote for your project does not fit your vehicle requirements, please submit a detailed, written explanation for your choice of vendor. You may cite the need for vehicle/engine specifications. Once received, we will review the explanation and approve or deny the request.

12. What if I'm a government agency – do I still need three price quotes?

- Depending on where you are conducting your project, certain municipalities may require additional procurement processes. Typically, municipalities and state agencies will require an RFP (request for proposal) for applicants to complete, with their own procurement purposes.

13. Where do I find information about Co-op purchasing programs?

- Two common Cooperative Purchasing Programs used by applicants are [Sourcewell](#) and [ESCNJ](#)

14. How many price quotes do I need to secure an electrician to install my charging stations?

- Following state and federal procurement rules, we require that all grantees must obtain and submit a minimum of three separate price quotes for the electric installation costs. These price quotes must be from three separate electricians. The requirement for three price quotes can be waived if the applicant utilizes a NJ Cooperative Purchasing site (Co-op). If doing so, the grantee may submit the single price quote from the cooperative. Sourcewell is a popular site that can provide co-op vendors.
- For more information on state procurement rules and guidelines, please refer to the [NJ Local Public Contracts Law and Regulation Reference Manual](#)

15. Who's responsible for ensuring the electrical connection from the outside electric pole to my building? Is there any financial assistance available for this work?

- The grantee is responsible for the installation of the electrical connection between the electric pole and their building. DEP can only cover the electrical installations made from the meter to the charger, any upgrades required to the building are not covered. There are many different state and federal incentives that can provide financial assistance. Grantees may pursue additional EV charging infrastructure incentive programs for their additional electrical connections. For these additional EV incentives, including links to different utility programs, please visit this site: <http://www.drivegreen.nj.gov/dg-electric-vehicles-affordability.html>

16. When are we able to purchase our new equipment?

- The grantee is not allowed to purchase their equipment and begin installing charging stations until a Grant Agreement has been finalized between DEP and the applicant. This is achieved once the grant agreement receives approval from our financial division (better name CGMU?). A grant officer will contact you with the required reimbursement forms, indicating that your Grant Agreement has been finalized and you may begin purchasing equipment. Until then, please do not purchase any equipment or you will risk violating the Grant Agreement.

17. How/where should I obtain quotes for my project?

- As a state agency, DEP cannot make specific company recommendations. But, we can direct you to websites that provide access to equipment vendors:
 - Global Drive to Zero's [Zero Emission Technology Inventory](#) is an online resource that provides commercially available offerings of zero-emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles. It allows users to filter by region, vehicle type, manufacturer, and specific models; providing applicants with possible vendors for their required electrical vehicles.

18. How are projects selected for funding?

- After submitting project proposals, a Grants Team officer will upload all applicants' project information into our database. From the data provided in the proposal, we run the diesel electrification calculations to determine the emissions benefits from each project. These are then compared to the total required cost of each project, providing us with cost effectiveness totals for each project. Once this is completed, all of the projects are compared, factoring in cost effectiveness, total reduction benefits, and proximity to environmental justice communities.