

#36;1.73 million in Recovery Act funds goes to Oregon DEQ for clean diesel projects

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

SALEM, Ore. — \$1.73 million has been awarded to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), funding that can be used to support clean diesel projects and loan programs to address the nation's existing fleet of over 11 million diesel engines. The Recovery Act funds can create jobs, boost local economies, reduce diesel emissions and protect human health and the environment.

"These cost-effective projects will help Oregon speed its journey to recovery," said EPA Acting Region 10 Administrator Michelle Pirzadeh. "This funding will bolster the state's economy and create new, green jobs that will improve air quality in Oregon."

The funds provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009 will go to the state's Oregon Clean Diesel Initiative. In addition to helping to create and retain jobs, the clean diesel projects would reduce premature deaths, asthma attacks and other respiratory ailments, lost work days, and many other health impacts every year.

Under ARRA's State clean diesel funding program, \$88.2 million is divided equally through a noncompetitive allocation process, meaning that all 50 states and the District of Columbia will receive \$1.73 million.

States, local governments, non-profits and tribal agencies can also compete for a portion of \$206 million under ARRA's National clean diesel funding program.

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