

Project Selection Criteria

1. Degree of matching or “in-kind” funds proposed for the project.
2. Degree of control program implementation and actual emission reduction as opposed to planning.
3. Assessment of benefits for the proposed project.
4. Permanence of benefits from the planned project.
5. Breadth of applicability of results in North Carolina.
6. Low cost/high benefit of the planned project.
7. Project’s potential for high total benefits in North Carolina.
8. Overall length of project (preference for 2 years or less).
9. Degree of support/participation from affected parties.
10. Public perception of appropriateness of selected projects.

Requirements for a Grant

1. Project must emphasize mobile source emissions reduction, [i.e. hydrocarbon (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen oxides (NOx) or particulate emissions].
2. Applicant must address/consider Project Selection Criteria.
3. Project must emphasize actual emission reductions as opposed to planning.
4. Proposal must be for a “new” project.
5. Grant Holders must report back to DENR on actual benefits of completed project.

Request application package from and submit proposal to:
N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
Division of Air Quality.



How to Apply for a Grant

For more information on the requirements or application package, please contact:

NC DENR/DAQ
Mobile Source Compliance Branch
Heather Hildebrandt
1641 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1641
Tele. (919) 733-1498
FAX (919) 733-1812
Heather.hildebrandt@ncmail.net

Pre-proposal meetings will be held by request only. The purpose of these meetings is to give applicants an opportunity to ask questions and potentially collaborate and set up partnerships with other applicants. To request a pre-proposal meeting, please contact Heather Hildebrandt at (919) 733-1498.

For a description of previous awards and other information, please visit our home page at: www.ncair.org and follow link to the Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Grant Program.

Timeline

Proposal submittal deadline- December 31, 2004

Committee review and project consideration- January 2005

Announcement of Grant Recipients- March 2005



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North Carolina Department of
Environment and Natural Resources



Dear Interested Parties:

Governor Mike Easley and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are committed to protecting public health and reducing air pollution. Reducing emissions from mobile sources will aid the State in meeting the goal for better air quality. We are pleased to be soliciting for the Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Grant Program.

The Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Grant Program offers the opportunity for businesses, organizations, government agencies, and individuals to find innovative and economically beneficial ways to reduce mobile source emissions. Since this program started in 1995, 78 grants have been awarded to organizations statewide. Collectively, these funds have assisted in the purchase of over 150 alternative fuel vehicles, promoted air quality education and transit programs, established numerous high school electric vehicle programs, and helped to create a natural gas corridor throughout the State.

Thank you for your interest in reducing emissions in North Carolina. All citizens, business, organizations are encouraged to apply for a Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Grant. Together we can find a way to protect and improve North Carolina's Air Quality.

Sincerely,

William G. Ross, Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William G. Ross, Jr.".

1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601
Phone: 919-733-4984 \ FAX: 919-715-3060 \ internet: www.ncair.org

Purpose

The purpose of the Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Grants program is to reduce emissions from cars, trucks, and other mobile sources in North Carolina. Such reductions will help protect public health and the environment by assisting the state in maintaining the National Air Quality Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter.

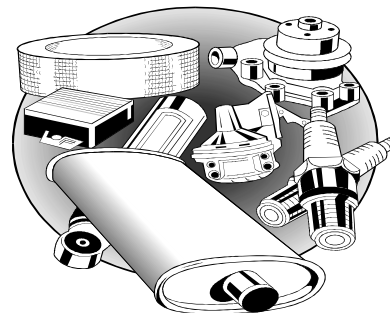
Background

In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that designated a portion of the state gasoline tax to help fund the state air quality program.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources formed a Grant Review Committee to help determine how to use the revenues generated from the gasoline tax. The committee represents a broad range of public interests, including environmental groups, industry, and city, county, and various state government agencies.

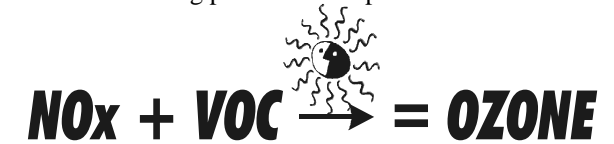
Funding for these grants is provided by a 1/64-cent tax on each gallon of gasoline sold. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources awards grants with assistance from the Grant Review Committee. Each year the committee selects a focus for the upcoming grant year. Although other projects may be submitted and funded, priority will be placed on projects addressing the annual goal.

The focus for the 2005 grants will be on projects that reduce mobile source emissions from diesel engines. Such projects may include installation of diesel oxidation catalysts, truck stop electrification, or anti-idling programs among others.



Why Mobile Source Emissions Reductions are Important to Maintain Good Air Quality

North Carolina currently is maintaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards for criteria pollutants including carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide, and lead. However, several areas in North Carolina have been designated as non-attainment for ozone under the 8-hour ozone standard. In addition, the state expects to have areas designated in non-attainment for fine particles once the federal rulemaking process is complete.



Ozone is formed when nitrogen oxides (NO_x) react with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the atmosphere. High levels generally occur during hot stagnant weather in the summer months, primarily in urban areas. Autos, trucks, and other motor vehicles emit a large portion of the pollutants that cause ozone during the summer. Statewide, highway and off-road mobile sources accounted for 51 percent of the nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and 41 percent of the VOCs in the summer of 1990.

Diesel exhaust from buses is comprised of fine particles of carbon and a mixture of toxic gases. This exhaust has been classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a probable human carcinogen and can cause inflammation and irritation of airways. There is no known safe level of exposure to diesel exhaust for children.

When mobile source emissions are reduced, air quality is improved.

Project Guidelines

1. Diesel Oxidation Catalyst retrofits must utilize EPA approved technologies.
2. Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) alternative fuel vehicles, where available, are preferred over conversions.
3. Grant funds are only available for the incremental cost of alternative fuel vehicles.
4. Alternative fueling facilities founded by this grant program must be publicly accessible.