

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **U.S. EPA Awards More Than \$6 million in Recovery Act Funding to Ohio Communities to Reduce Diesel Emissions and Create Jobs**

**WASHINGTON** – EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson today announced that Ohio auto communities will receive \$6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Clean Diesel grants. Administrator Jackson was joined by state officials at an event in Columbus where she announced a \$5 million grant for clean diesel projects statewide. She then traveled to Cincinnati for an event with Hamilton County Board of Commissioners President David Pepper to announce \$1.1 million in grants to fund the county's purchase of clean diesel school-buses.

"Innovative clean diesel projects can create jobs, cut fuel costs, keep people healthy, and move our country into a clean energy future," said Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "President Obama is committed to rebuilding the economy and creating a new foundation for prosperity, especially in places where the downturn has hit hardest. EPA is proud to be part of the solution for Ohio communities."

"The state of Ohio is committed to reducing diesel emissions and this program is a unique opportunity to safeguard the future of Ohio's businesses, families and environment," Ohio Governor Ted Strickland said. "This national initiative complements our state's efforts to pursue a long-term diesel reduction strategy."

"Reducing diesel emissions is pivotal in our effort to clean the nation's air and is vitally important to Ohio, which has 38 non-attainment counties," said Senator George Voinovich (R-OH), a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. "Since 2005, I have worked to help states and communities meet government standards and reduce exposure to harmful diesel emissions. Last year, I co-authored a bill that allows the EPA to continue funding the Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, which I spearheaded, to reduce diesel emissions from 11 million vehicles. If we want to clean up our air, improve the environment and protect public health, diesel retrofits are one of the best uses of taxpayer dollars."

"These funds will help municipalities save on energy costs while creating jobs at the same time," Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) said. "Ohio school children deserve clean air. Retrofitting school buses and municipal fleets with clean diesel is an important step toward improving air quality. This is a federal investment that creates jobs while meeting important human needs."

The funds are provided under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. With these resources, the Ohio Department of Development will be able to work with both private and public fleets to retrofit or replace about 284 heavy duty highway and locomotive diesel engines. Hamilton County will use these funds to replace 60 diesel school buses with cleaner buses in seven school districts.

These awards are the first in a series of clean diesel awards that will occur throughout the nation in the coming months. EPA has received an unprecedented response to these funding competitions. Applicants throughout the nation submitted more than 600 applications.

In addition to helping to create and retain jobs, the clean diesel projects will assist in reducing premature deaths, asthma attacks and other respiratory ailments, lost work days, and many other health impacts every year.

The Recovery Act allotted the National Clean Diesel Campaign \$300 million, of which the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program received \$156 million to fund competitive grants across the nation. The Recovery Act also included \$20 million for the National Clean Diesel Emerging Technology Program grants and \$30 million for the SmartWay Clean Diesel Finance Program grants.

In addition, under the Act's State Clean Diesel Grant program, \$88.2 million has been provided to States for clean diesel projects through a noncompetitive allocation process.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, 2009 and has directed that the Recovery Act be implemented with unprecedented transparency and accountability. To that end, the American people can see how every dollar is being invested at [Recovery.gov](http://Recovery.gov).

Please visit <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel> for information about EPA's clean diesel initiatives.

For information about Ohio's Department of Development, please visit: <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/>.

For information about Ohio's Hamilton County, please visit: <http://www.hamilton-co.org/hc/default.asp>.