



**Snohomish County
County Executive's Office**

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Snohomish County receives grant funding from Department of Ecology to reduce toxic diesel fumes

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*Snohomish County, six other local jurisdictions receive a combined
\$424,500 to retrofit existing diesel vehicles for greater pollution control*

This afternoon, Snohomish County hosted a Washington State Department of Ecology (“DOE”) Grant Awards Ceremony. Snohomish County and six other local jurisdictions from Snohomish, King, Island and San Juan counties were recognized for receiving grants from DOE to install diesel emission control devices on their existing diesel-powered vehicles.

According to the Department of Ecology, diesel soot poses the highest cancer risk of any air pollutant. Particles harm the heart, lungs and immune system of those exposed. Individuals with pre-existing health conditions are especially at risk. Infants, young children, the elderly, pregnant women and smokers are also more sensitive to the toxic affects of these pollutants.

“Snohomish County is serious about reducing air pollution in the region and improving our citizens’ health and safety,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. **“This grant of approximately \$127,500 will allow us to dramatically lower toxic emissions from at least another 85 diesel vehicles.”**

Last year, Snohomish County received nearly \$40,000 in grant funding from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. These funds were used to install diesel oxidation catalysts on 18 of the County’s Solid Waste Division’s long haul truck tractors and six Road Maintenance street sweepers.

The State Legislature appropriated \$2 million for this program in the 2005-2007 biennium. Altogether, DOE has issued \$2 million in grants to 28 local governments

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across the state to purchase and install devices that decrease pollution. These funds are expected to be used to retrofit more than 300 diesel vehicles across the state, including 187 in the seven local jurisdictions receiving the award today.

This technology, which is easy to install and relatively maintenance free, is being used to eliminate between 40 to 90% of the toxic and visible emissions generated by diesel vehicles. The specific pollution-control device necessary depends on the technology suitable for each vehicle considering its age, type and usage.

“This retrofit grant program is one component of an overall strategy to reduce pollution and promote the use of alternative fuels,” Executive Reardon said.

Beginning January 2006, Snohomish County has been running biodiesel in its diesel fleet vehicles in north Snohomish County. Currently, the County is using between 10,000 and 12,000 gallons of B20 biodiesel (a blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum) per month in 30 percent of its diesel fleet. The conversion to biodiesel has not caused any difficulties with the equipment.

After a competitive call for interested parties earlier this year, Snohomish County has partnered with SeaPort Biofuels to sell B-99 biodiesel (99 percent biodiesel blended with 1 percent petroleum) to the public one day a week at the County Transfer Station at Paine Field. Sales to the public are expected to begin this Saturday, July 22. Customers should expect to pay between \$3.090 and \$3.179 per gallon. Unfortunately, since SeaPort Petroleum cannot accept cash, customers will only be able to pay with credit/debit cards.

In addition, Snohomish County is working with a group of farmers to grow varieties of mustard and canola crops for seeds that can potentially be harvested and processed into biodiesel fuel. There are five different farms in six different soil types growing four varieties of seed. By the end of the year, sufficient data will be available to determine whether any of these seed variants are economically viable for farmers to grow in Snohomish County. Success in this project could mean locally grown fuel for Snohomish County vehicles and a new crop that can be grown by County farmers.

Finally, Snohomish County has been hosting a forum for biofuel entrepreneurs who are looking at the County as a potential place where they could do business. This group, known as the Biofuel Infrastructure Development committee, or BID, brings together interested parties to discuss obstacles for developing biofuel infrastructure in Snohomish County and seek solutions to overcome those challenges.

Snohomish County Public Works Director Steve Thomsen and County Fleet Manager Allen Mitchell were on hand to accept the award for Snohomish County. This afternoon’s event concluded with a demonstration of the differences in visible air quality between a fleet vehicle that has been retrofitted with a diesel oxidation catalyst and one that has not.

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Certificate of Appreciation
in Recognition of
Snohomish County
The Washington State Department of Ecology
and the University of Washington Center for Global
Change Science and Policy (CGSP) are pleased to
recognize Snohomish County for its leadership
in the Local Governments United (LGU) Climate
Action Plan. This award is presented in
recognition of the county's commitment to
reducing greenhouse gas emissions and
improving the quality of life for those living and working
in the county.
July 11, 2008