

# News Release

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## **ADEQ FUNDS FIVE DIESEL EMISSION REDUCTION PROJECTS**

Five grants totaling nearly \$160,000 were recently awarded under the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) Reduce Emissions from Diesels Program's 2013 funding round. The emissions reduction program, also known as the "GoRED!" Program, provides grants to eligible entities for replacement or retrofitting of diesel engines resulting in the reduction of engine emissions.

Grants awarded with 2013 funds include:

- Central Arkansas Transit, \$50,000 for the replacement of up to eight buses with either clean diesel or natural gas engines.
- Clinton School District, \$40,000 for the replacement of two school buses.
- City of Little Rock, \$24,014.71 for the replacement of one wrecker truck with a natural gas powered vehicle.
- Ozark School District, \$23,875 for the replacement of one school bus.
- County Line School District, \$20,842.50 for the replacement of one school bus.

Public and private entities and non-profit organizations in Arkansas are eligible to receive funding under the "GoRED!" Program. Projects that are selected for awards must reduce diesel emissions in Arkansas by employing measures such as exhaust controls, engine upgrades, idle reduction technologies, engine replacement and vehicle/equipment replacement.

Diesel engines play an important role in the Arkansas economy -- for instance, they are used to repair roads and transport goods. However, older diesel engines can emit large quantities of harmful substances such as nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and carbon monoxide into the air. Those substances are linked to thousands of premature deaths, hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks and millions of lost work days.

Replacing and upgrading those engines can be costly not only to businesses, but to cities and counties which depend on diesel engines to maintain Arkansas roadways and provide sanitation services. The "Go RED!" program provides assistance to qualifying applicants for helping reduce diesel emissions in Arkansas.

The ADEQ plans to announce the open application period for 2014 "GoRED!" grants later this year.