

# Alert

dvrpc | October 2014

*Alert is a monthly update on transportation and air quality planning activities in the Delaware Valley.*



## Air Quality Regulations

### U.S. EPA Reports Greenhouse Gas Emissions Increased in 2013

On September 30, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its fourth annual report on data from the agency's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. The report details national greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution trends and emissions broken down by industrial sector, geographic region, and individual facility. In 2013, industrial sector GHG emissions grew nationally, for the first time in the report's four-year history.

The EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting program is the only program that collects facility-level GHG data from major industrial sources across the United States, including data from power plants, oil and gas production and refining, iron and steel mills, and landfills.

EPA collected data from over 8,000 large emitters, representing approximately 50 percent of national GHG emissions. Data from these facilities show that in 2013, power plants remained the largest source of GHG emissions. Power plant emissions have declined by 9.8 percent since 2010 but GHG emissions from power plants increased by 13 million metric tons in 2013, due to an increased use of coal to power energy generation.

Petroleum and natural gas systems were the second largest source of GHG emissions but reported a one percent decrease in GHG emissions from 2012. The data shows that GHG emissions from hydraulically fractured natural gas wells decreased by 73 percent between 2011 and 2013, a reduction that the EPA credits to the implementation of the 2012 emissions standards for the oil and gas industry.

GHG emissions from refineries and other large industrial sources increased by approximately one percent in 2013. Data from the report shows that GHG emissions from these large sources decreased by almost four percent in Pennsylvania and seven percent in New Jersey between 2010 and 2013 with more inter-year variability than the national data.

EPA has launched a companion online tool for the public to track GHG emissions and emitting facilities. The tool, named the Facility Level Information on GreenHouse Gas Tool or FLIGHT (<http://ghgdata.epa.gov>), allows the user to view and download emissions data by location, industry sector, or facility.

The Green House Gas Reporting program is one facet of the President Obama's Climate Action Plan aimed at addressing carbon pollution from the power and transportation sectors. The Plan includes new fuel economy standards for vehicles and the recently submitted Clean Power Plant Rule which is currently in the public comment phase of the rulemaking process.



## Save the Date

Friday,  
October 10, 2014

**Natural Gas Vehicle  
Workshop**  
11:30 am – 2:00 pm

*Location of Meeting:*  
PA DEP Southeast  
Regional Office  
2 Main Street  
Norristown, PA

Thursday,  
October 16, 2014

**EPA Clean Ports Funding  
Opportunity Webinar for  
Potential Applicants**  
2:00 pm

*Webinar url:*  
<https://epa.connectsolutions.com/deraportsrfp/>

*Call in number:*  
1-866-299-3188  
code: 202-343-9413#

The Clean Power Plant rule has experienced considerable resistance from coal industry interest groups and coal producing states, with twelve states joining the Murray Power Company in a lawsuit to block the rule.

The EPA has extended the public comment period on this rule an additional 45 days to December 1, 2014 and has stated that the EPA may revise the rule based on some of the over one million comments received on the Plan. For more information on the EPA's strategies to reduce carbon emissions, please visit: [www.epa.gov/climatechange](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange).



## Air Quality Information

### U.S. EPA Announces Funding Opportunity to Reduce Diesel Emissions from Ports

On September 22, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a funding opportunity to reduce diesel engine emissions from the nation's ports located in counties with the nation's poorest air quality. The EPA will award \$5 million to projects that address diesel emissions from drayage trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and cargo handling equipment.

Public port authorities, state, and local governments are eligible to apply for these funds. Port terminal operators, shipping carriers, and fleet managers serving the ports are encouraged to partner with eligible applicants to submit funding proposals. Eligible project types include vehicle idle reduction technologies, diesel retrofits with EPA or CARB approved technologies, and early diesel engine repower or replacement projects (incremental costs only).

Older diesel engines emit large amounts of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NOX) and particulate matter (PM). These pollutants are linked to a range of serious health problems including asthma, lung and heart disease, and other respiratory ailments. Most of the country's busiest ports are located near large metropolitan areas and, as a result, people in neighboring communities are exposed to high levels of diesel emissions. Since most ships and equipment at ports run on diesel engines, clean diesel projects at ports will produce immediate emissions reductions and provide health benefits to those living and working in the area.

"Communities surrounding ports often face serious air quality and other environmental challenges," said Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. "By working with fleet owners to replace or update older equipment with cleaner technologies, we can find collaborative solutions that foster both economic growth and improve public health."

Entities in all nine counties in the DVRPC region are eligible to submit projects for funding under this opportunity. The EPA will host a webinar for potential applicants on October 16, 2014 at 2:00 pm and applications are due on December 11, 2014. Parties interested in applying for these funds are encouraged to contact the Philadelphia Diesel Difference working group or Clean Air Council for assistance and coordination of applications. Applicants can email Sean Greene at [sgreene@dvrpc.org](mailto:sgreene@dvrpc.org) for contact information for these organizations.

For more information on the EPA RFP for improving air quality at ports, please visit: <http://epa.gov/otaq/ports/ports-dera-rfp.htm>.



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