



Oregon Department of Transportation
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

NEWS RELEASE



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<http://www.orsolutions.org/metrohood/dieselem.htm>

OREGON SOLUTIONS PROJECT FOCUSES ON NORTH PORTLAND

A diverse group of stakeholders is working in North Portland to tackle diesel emission issues through an Oregon Solutions project designated by Governor Kulongoski. This collaborative group is working to find ways to reduce diesel emissions from heavy on-road, rail, and marine traffic as well as from off-road construction equipment. Diesel emissions contribute to asthma and other health problems experienced by residents in this part of Portland.

Private entities such as fuel providers, trucking companies, and garbage and recycling haulers; public entities such as the Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Transportation (ODOT), City of Portland, and Multnomah County health department; and non-profit organizations such as Environmental Justice Action Group, Coalition for a Livable Future, and Oregon Environmental Council are taking part in an effort to promote voluntary actions.

Governor Kulongoski designated this as the *Oregon Solutions North Portland Diesel Emissions Reduction Project* and appointed respected community leaders Dr. Algje Gatewood, president of Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, and Mr. Carl Talton of Portland Family of Funds as co-conveners. The group has met twice, to date, and has two additional meetings planned.

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Following the first two meetings, group representatives have identified and made early commitments to areas they could pursue within their own organizations to reduce diesel emissions. The end product of the four meetings of this Oregon Solutions project will be a Declaration of Cooperation, a so-called “written handshake”, putting forth solutions agreed to by the group. The proposed solutions will focus on voluntary actions that can be achieved without regulatory intervention. It is expected that several coordinated efforts will emerge including the use of cleaner fuels, add-on control devices and idle reduction strategies. The collective effect will be an improvement in local air quality, which should improve the neighbors’ health, and reduce the costs and risks of transition for the diesel fleet owners and operators. Government agencies and community groups will support the diesel reduction efforts by securing grant money from federal and state programs and participating in outreach efforts.

The mission of Oregon Solutions (<http://www.orsolutions.org>) is to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems that support economic, environmental, and community objectives and are built through the collaborative efforts of businesses, government, and non-profit organizations.

For information on the third meeting of the project team, which is scheduled for May 25, contact project staff Joshua Proudfoot at joshua.proudfoot@goodcompany.com or 541.341.GOOD (4663) x13.

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