

Nov. 4, 2011

## HEALTHY, CLEAN AND CLEAR AIR FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Diesel soot is one of the air pollutants targeted in a new Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management approved by the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors.

The plan outlines initiatives to reduce emissions from diesel-powered trucks, bulldozers and other off-road vehicles – initiatives that will help protect human health and reduce emissions of a pollutant that also contributes to climate change.

“Clean air is essential to the health of all residents of the region, as well as to our local ecosystems which provide food, jobs and recreational opportunities for all of us,” said Board Chair Lois E. Jackson. “Clear air provides us with unfettered views of the region’s natural beauty and some of our most iconic places.”

“The freedom to breathe clean air is a basic human right,” added Joe Trasolini, a Metro Vancouver Director and Chair of the regional district’s Environment and Energy Committee.

“We have to maintain high standards for air quality in our region, for both current and future generations. I’m pleased this new management plan has been approved just a few weeks before I leave the Metro Vancouver Board.”

In diesel smoke, there are small particles of soot that people can breathe deep into their lungs. The particles are less than 2.5 microns in diameter. That’s much smaller than a human hair, which is 50 to 70 microns in diameter. Public health and air pollution studies suggest that emissions of diesel particulate matter are responsible for two thirds of the lifetime cancer risk from air pollution in Metro Vancouver.

Diesel emissions often occur at ground level, close to where people live, work and play – resulting in higher exposures and increased health risk.

In February 2011, Metro Vancouver’s Board adopted a Non-Road Diesel Engine Emission Regulation Bylaw that promotes the reduction of these harmful emissions from industrial and construction machines such as excavators, forklifts, cranes, and generators.

On Oct. 28, 2011, the Board approved a broader Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan that outlines goals, strategies and actions for implementation within the region over the next decade. Some of the 81 “actions” or initiatives:

- Explore measures and financing mechanisms to promote retrofits of on-road diesel engines and accelerate the use of cleaner alternative fuels.
- Reduce air contaminant emissions from industrial, commercial, institutional and agricultural sources.
- Delay the impacts of climate change by reducing emissions of short-lived climate forcers, which include not only diesel soot but also wood smoke and methane.

The Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan is posted on the regional district's website, [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org) For a direct link, click here: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/air/management/ReviewProcess/Pages/default.aspx>

***For further information, please contact the Information Centre at 604.432.6200.***



**metro  
vancouver**

[www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)