

Innovations in American Government

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the
John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The awards program is administered in partnership with
the Council for Excellence in Government.

NEWS

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FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND CLEAN DIESEL INITIATIVE IS A FINALIST FOR PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD

*Spreading substantial environmental and public health benefits throughout the U.S.,
multi-state collaboration awarded \$10,000 grant, eligible for \$100,000 prize*

(CAMBRIDGE, MA) – The Multi-State Clean Diesel Initiative, helping states throughout the U.S. greatly reduce air pollution by adopting stringent diesel emission controls, has made the shortlist for the sought-after Innovations in American Government Award. As one of 15 finalists in the highly esteemed competition, this groundbreaking collaboration is receiving a \$10,000 grant and is eligible to win \$100,000 in what is often referred to as “the Oscars” of government award programs.

The Initiative, spearheaded by the two national associations of state and local air pollution control officials, dramatically broadens the impact of regulations issued in 2000 by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to address the growing threat to public health from heavy-duty diesel engine trucks, responsible for nearly 25 percent of U.S. emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx). These emissions contribute to the formation of fine particulate matter, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates causes between 10,000 and 30,000 premature deaths each year, as well as smog.

Issuing strict requirements and test procedures to which heavy-duty diesel engine manufacturers must adhere by 2005, California imposed a deadline two years earlier than that of federal requirements. While only the federal government and California are legally permitted to set emission standards for heavy-duty diesel engines, the Clean Air Act enables other states to adopt California’s rules if they meet eligibility criteria. To leverage this opportunity, the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO) and State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA) worked with CARB to launch the Multi-State Clean Diesel Initiative in November 2000.

To date, 13 jurisdictions have opted in: Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Texas.

“The Multi-State Clean Diesel Initiative is one of the most widespread and diverse multi-state air quality regulatory alliances in our nation’s history,” said Gail Christopher, Executive Director of the Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. “It’s a seminal model that can be replicated to address myriad environmental, public health and other pressing issues that are not contained by state borders.”

Initiative leaders developed and distributed model emission requirements, legal and eligibility guidelines, and critical environmental information. They also created a web-based clearinghouse, organized special

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state-specific workshops, facilitated an interactive network of state representatives working to adopt the standards and made themselves available for numerous consultations.

Due to these efforts, more than 40 percent of heavy diesel truck engines made and sold in the U.S. in 2005 and 2006 will be subject to stricter pollution controls than federal law will require. STAPPA and ALAPCO representatives expect the results will be a *de facto* national standard, which would affect all big diesel truck engines made in those years and could lead to an 800,000-ton reduction of NOx emissions over the lifetime of those engines – an environmental benefit equal to removing about 30 million cars from the roads.

“The Multi-State Clean Diesel Initiative demonstrates that states can overcome the traditional barriers of geography and political ideology to collaboratively achieve major gains against pollution,” said Patricia McGinnis, President and CEO of the Council for Excellence in Government. “This breathtaking achievement will help all Americans breathe a little easier for years to come.”

The Multi-State Clean Diesel Initiative was one of nearly 1,000 applicants for the 16th annual Innovations in American Government Award. Each of the 15 finalists will deliver a presentation at the National Press Club on May 7, 2003. After a full day of presentations the National Selection Committee will select five winning programs and announce them the following day. Each winner will receive a \$100,000 grant to encourage replication of its innovation in other jurisdictions. Chaired by David Gergen, Director of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University and editor-at-large of *U.S. News & World Report*, the distinguished Committee includes new members: former Maryland Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and former San Diego Mayor Susan Golding.

About the Innovations Award

For 16 years the Innovations in American Government Award has recognized quality and responsiveness at all levels of government and has fostered the replication of innovative approaches to the challenges facing government.

The award – a program of the Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government – is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. The program was founded by the Ford Foundation to identify and promote excellence and creativity in the public sector.

The Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, established through an endowment from the Ford Foundation, fosters excellence in governments throughout the world. It serves as a global hub for public-sector innovators through networks, conferences and research.

The Council for Excellence in Government is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to improve government performance by strengthening results-oriented management and creative leadership in the public sector, and to build understanding by focusing public discussion on government’s role and responsibilities.

For more information on the Innovations in American Government program and this year’s finalists, please visit www.innovations.harvard.edu or www.excelgov.org.

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