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Air Quality Grants Available for Heavy-Duty Diesel Equipment and School Buses

Salt Lake City — The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is providing up to \$700,000 for reducing emissions from heavy-duty diesel vehicles/equipment, school buses, and landscape/maintenance equipment through the Clean Air Retrofit, Replacement, and Off-Road Technology (CARROT) Program. The funding opportunity will be divided into three segments, two of which are currently accepting applications.

The first segment of funding will focus on heavy-duty diesel fleets such as long-haul or delivery trucks, refuse haulers, equipment used for operation in construction, agriculture, energy production, rail, or ground-support equipment at airports, just to name a few.

Eligible activities and funding amounts for the first segment of the CARROT program include:

- Aerodynamics up to 100 percent if bundled with a diesel retrofit
- Diesel Retrofits (such as Diesel Particulate Filters or Diesel Oxidation Catalysts) up to 100 percent
- Engine Upgrades/Repowers up to 40 percent
- Idle Reduction Technologies up to 100 percent if bundled with a diesel retrofit
- Low-Rolling Resistance Tires up to 100 percent if bundled with diesel retrofit
- Vehicle or Equipment Replacements up to 25 percent

The second segment will dedicate \$300,000 for diesel school bus replacements which will provide school districts a much-needed boost for replacing old, heavy-polluting school buses for new buses that achieve the cleanest emissions standards. State funding for school districts to purchase new buses was cut in 2010 due to the economic conditions that began to emerge in 2008. It has been a challenge for the school districts to rely only on local funding for their transportation needs without assistance from the State. As a result, polluting buses continue to operate in our communities.

“Since state funding for new school buses has been cut, replacing old school buses in a timely manner has been a challenge,” said Wayne Reese, Transportation Administrator for Cache County School District. “Out of a fleet of 135 buses, we are only able to replace four buses per year, resulting in a 30-year rotation cycle for retiring old buses, lagging our efforts to operate buses that meet the cleanest standards.”

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Awards for up to \$25,000 toward the cost of a new bus will be available to replace old buses, which are required to be permanently disabled.

The third segment, a discount and exchange program for landscape equipment, will occur in the Spring of 2016.

Grant applications must be submitted to DEQ by 11:59 p.m. on December 17, 2015. Application details are available at www.CARROT.deq.utah.gov. The awards will be announced January 25, 2016.

For more information, visit www.CARROT.deq.utah.gov.

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About DEQ: Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.