

ENE Stages Successful Diesel Pollution Monitoring and Awareness Event in Boston



**Environment
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ENE and its partners in the Massachusetts Diesel Pollution Solution Coalition staged a successful diesel truck monitoring event on October 22, 2007 at the John Marshall Elementary School in Dorchester. The event was held to draw attention to Senate Bill 502 calling for most state-owned heavy duty vehicles and municipal garbage and recycling trucks, to install pollution retrofits by 2011 and 2012, respectively. SB 502, and its companion bill in the house, HB 732 (Coakley-Rivera), would also establish a multi-million “Diesel Emissions Reduction Fund” to help private companies, such as trucking and construction companies, clean up their fleets.

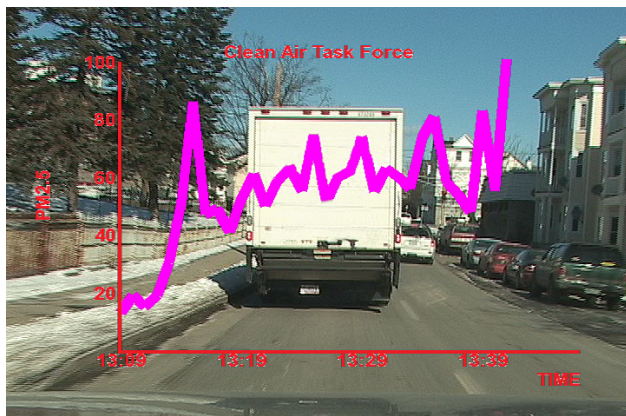
Clean Air Task Force (CATF) Senior Scientist Bruce Hill (pictured at right, squatting) used an air pollution monitor to demonstrate how diesel particulate filters (DPFs), such as those mandated by the bill, reduce tailpipe soot particle emissions up to 90%. Dr. Hill measured the pollution emitted by a retrofitted clean-diesel truck, and comparing it to the emissions from a traditional diesel-powered vehicle of comparable weight and size. He found particles levels emitted by the retrofitted truck to be comparable to levels found in outdoor air, while the particle levels emitted by the dirty truck were roughly 100 times higher.



ENE policy analyst and attorney Sam Krasnow (far right, in back) and Massachusetts state Senator Jack Hart joined with school children and ENE's partner organizations to promote the Senator's legislation to curb diesel pollution at a Boston elementary school.

ENE and its partners advocate for policies that require retrofits like this one because their effectiveness in reducing local air pollution has been well established. Pictured below are the results from a similar, previously-conducted CATF experiment on a 30 foot box diesel truck before and after retrofitting with a DPF. The picture on the right shows that “PM 2.5,” (fine particulate matter that is particularly dangerous to health, with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less) levels were the same as outside air after the retrofitting.

The event was part of ENE's New England Diesel Initiative, which is working to advance regulations to reduce diesel emissions from heavy-duty diesel fleets in three New England states with high pollution levels. ENE built coalitions of health and community groups that have succeed in securing commitments and funding to clean up school buses fleets in all three states, but other fleets remain to be retrofitted.



Senator Jack Hart, co-sponsor of SB 502, Sam Krasnow, ENE policy analyst and attorney, and members of the community spoke at the Dorchester event. Fourth and fifth graders from the school came outside to get a lesson in diesel pollution and its solution. High school students active in the diesel “soot patrols,” which monitor diesel activity in their community also attended the event.

ENE played a pivotal role in the event, securing both the retrofitted truck from a local company and a comparable non-retrofitted truck, for the monitoring demonstration. ENE also spearheaded the press outreach.



Sam Krasnow, ENE policy analyst and attorney speaking about the need for diesel legislation in Massachusetts.

The *Boston Globe* published an article covering the event, and followed up with an editorial later in the week. The editorial called on the Massachusetts state legislature to act on SB 502, and the EPA to clean up long-haul fleet trucks by forcing companies to install filters when rebuilding engines, which happens several times over the lifetime of a typical truck.

Neighborhood Network News ran a segment on the event on the 5:30, 9:30 and 11:00 PM news shows on the 22nd. *Boston Business Journal* and *Businesswire* also ran stories, focusing on the local company, Geo2Technologies, that supplied the retrofitted truck for the event.

Teens working with the diesel soot patrol in Holyoke, Massachusetts were featured on a local television news show and in *The Republican* newspaper.

SB 502 passed out of the joint committee on Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources in June 2007, and as currently under consideration by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. ENE will continue working with its partners to press for the bill’s passage over the coming months.

“The Legislature should act quickly to ensure that public-sector vehicles, at least, are part of the diesel solution and not the diesel problem.”

Boston Globe editorial October 27, 2007



Senator Jack Hart speaking at the event about his legislation. Pictured in back is the clean diesel truck outfitted with a DPF designed by a local, Woburn company Geo2 Technologies.



Bridget Hickson, Dorchester mother of two, and a parent leader with Strengthening Voices, a group within the Urban Asthma Coalition, speaking about raising a child with asthma. Her 10 year old was hospitalized for asthma at the time of the event.