



NEWS RELEASE

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clean Vehicles Program Revolutionizes How Truck Drivers Do Business

H-GAC program offers funding needed to upgrade fleets and improve air quality

HOUSTON, TX -- The Houston-Galveston region is home to nearly seven million residents. It's a bustling metropolis and with one of the largest ports in the country, the area has approximately 100,000 high-emitting and heavy-duty diesel trucks move through the region annually. With so many trucks on the road, consequences of poor air quality are heightened affecting air quality standards. Replacing heavy-duty diesel trucks helps the region reach federally mandated air quality goals, but it can be expensive.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) Clean Vehicles program provides grants to local governments, school districts, and businesses to accelerate the replacement of high-emitting and heavy-duty diesel trucks, equipment, and buses with new, lower emission vehicles. Any business or organization operating a fleet with 75% in the transportation management area or establishing alternative refueling infrastructure, is an ideal candidate for the program.

Since 2000, more than 350 companies utilized grants to improve their operations and helped improve air quality by reducing emissions by 3700 tons of NOx. Jetco Delivery is one of many companies benefiting from H-GAC's Clean Vehicles program.

"We turned over our older model trucks using the Clean Vehicles program and we've been able to increase efficiency. We cut costs by saving on fuel and maintenance, which helped up increase profit," said Kyle Kristynik, President of Jetco Delivery, the official equipment transportation company of the Houston Texans.

"We view being a good steward of our environment as a part of our mission and working in this region we take every chance we can to lower our carbon footprint," he added.

The Clean Vehicles program currently has \$10 million available for qualifying candidates. Companies that utilize these grants could potentially reduce emissions and significantly improve air quality.

"We encounter some hesitation from potential beneficiaries of this program," said Robert Veazie, Program Manager for the Clean Vehicles program. "It's government funded, so some owner-operators think there must be a catch. If you meet a few basic qualifications, you turn over your older model truck and we help you get money towards a new one. That's it," he added.

For more information on H-GAC's Clean Vehicles program visit www.hgaccleanvehicles.com or send an email to cleanvehicles@h-gac.com.

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Regional Collaboration • Transportation Planning • Multimodal Mobility

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region—an area of 12,500 square miles and seven million people. H-GAC is designated by the State of Texas as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.