

## SELP loan funds alternative to truck idling to improve air quality and reduce diesel consumption

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Truck idling is a common practice by long-haul drivers to keep cab temperatures comfortable, to run appliances and to keep the engine warm. Yet idling a heavy-duty engine increases air pollution, adds to greenhouse gas emissions and consumes an average of 0.8 gallons of fuel per hour, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Over a year, long-haul trucks idle an average of eight hours a day for 300 days a year, requiring more than 1,900 gallons of fuel.

The alternative to idling the main truck engine is a smaller Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) that produces fewer emissions and uses from 0.1 to 0.2 gallons of diesel per hour, saving each truck up to 2,000 gallons annually. Cost savings on fuel and reduced wear and tear on the main engine make APUs an attractive solution for healthier air and energy conservation.

When Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) considered ways to improve air quality in the Eugene-Springfield, Cottage Grove and Oakridge areas, they looked at reducing emissions from diesel long-haul trucks traveling through the county, which includes parts of the I-5 corridor. LRAPA secured a loan from

Oregon Department of Energy's Small-Scale Energy Loan Program (SELP) to purchase and install 150 APUs to introduce and promote the technology. Giving priority to Lane County businesses, LRAPA will offer a \$150 per month lease arrangement to truck owners, who will save about \$300 to \$400 per month in fuel costs. This strategy enables independent drivers to afford the units, whose prices range from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Because no company in Lane County is installing or servicing the units, LRAPA is using this project as a catalyst to get the product introduced to the trucking industry. The hope is that private enterprise will embrace this technology and the project will develop into a green business opportunity for Lane County.

LRAPA has also applied for a grant to support the development of training programs at community colleges and technical schools to train diesel mechanics to install and service the APUs. This will ensure continuing expansion of APU use to stimulate the market and provide local servicing, a boost to economic development. LRAPA's program will provide a model for other parts of the state. Early indications are that truckers love the units and word is likely to spread.

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