



Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Diesel Campaign Accomplishments

2009

- RHAMC worked to pass a Green Construction Ordinance in Cook County. The ordinance requires all Cook County contractors working on public construction contracts to use cleaner fuels and pollution controls on their diesel vehicles and equipment. With the announcement, Cook County became the first County in the Midwest to adopt a green construction ordinance.
- In April, RHAMC worked with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to release a Green Construction Executive Order, which requires all state-funded road construction projects, in non-attainment areas, to use clean construction practices.
- RHAMC was successful in helping pass HB 2664, which would strengthen the state's Diesel No-Idling.
- RHAMC helped pass a 3-minute Diesel No Idling Limit in the City of Chicago. Chicago's Diesel Idling limit is one of the most aggressive city idling limits in the Midwest.

2008

- RHAMC helped secure \$19.5 million dollars in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Improvement funding (CMAQ) to clean up diesel engines in the Chicago metropolitan area. This is the largest amount of money the CMAQ committee has dedicated for diesel clean up in Chicago and is **THREE times GREATER** than the amount approved in 2007 for diesel clean up.
- RHAMC was successful in urging the Chicago Olympic Committee to agree to use pollution controls on construction equipment and buses used in preparation for and during the 2016 Olympics, given that the City is successful in winning the bid.
- In April, RHAMC worked with WTTW (PBS) Chicago in airing an 8-minute special about the problems of diesel locomotive pollution in the Chicago area and the solutions to this problem. For the special, RHAMC brought in Dr. Bruce Hill, Senior Scientist, with the Clean Air Task Force to do air monitoring of local rail yards and Metra train cars. The results from this monitoring project were astounding. Pollution levels in some Metra train cars were found to be 10 times greater than outside air.

2007

- RHAMC, along with Citizen Action/Illinois, formally launched the Illinois Campaign to Clean Up Diesel Pollution. The campaign's goal is to significantly clean up diesel pollution in the state. To date, over 80 public health, community, labor and environmental organizations have endorsed the campaign.
- RHAMC worked with CBS Chicago's Health Reporter Mary Ann Childers in airing two investigative specials on the dangers of diesel pollution. The first special, Toxic Commute, highlighted the potential health dangers commuters' face every day during their daily commute from diesel pollution. The second special, examined the health threat from dirty school buses.

2006

- RHAMC helped pass the state's first No Idling Diesel Law. The law limits diesel truck idling in the Metropolitan Chicago and Metro East St. Louis areas to 10 minutes.

2005

- RHAMC successfully urged the City of Chicago to adopt a 5-minute No-Idling policy for its city-owned trucks and cars.
- RHAMC successfully urged the Illinois Department of Transportation to require the use of diesel equipment with cleaner fuel and pollution controls for their construction projects, beginning with the Dan Ryan Expressway Reconstruction

2003

- RHAMC successfully urged the Chicago Transit Agency to adopt ultra-low sulfur fuel, three years ahead of schedule.