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## MEI Awarded \$3M for Clean Diesel Projects

**The money will fund projects that reduce diesel emissions and create jobs.**

August 2009 | by [Melissa Loth](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Tuesday that it has awarded \$3 million to the Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI) to reduce diesel emissions from public and private fleets in the state.

The government said that the clean diesel projects will create jobs and protect Minnesota's air quality.

"Investing in clean diesel projects in the Great Lakes region will protect public health, bolster the economy, and create jobs," Bharat Mathur, acting EPA regional administrator, said in a statement.

The funds, which were provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be used to purchase cleaner diesel engines and retrofit school buses and heavy-duty diesel engines with pollution control equipment, among other projects.

Project Green Fleet, MEI's five-year-old program, will upgrade at least 684 diesel engines, the Minneapolis-based private nonprofit said.

MEI said that the funding will also provide 50,000 direct work hours.

Unlike many other states, Minnesota doesn't have an EPA-mandated government program to curb diesel emissions because its air quality doesn't violate federal pollution laws, Bill Droessler, MEI's director of environmental projects, said.

EPA Region 5, Minnesota's EPA-designated region, received 81 grant applications requesting \$211 million to help fund clean diesel emissions projects.

MEI, which was founded in 1991, provides administrative and logistical work for Minnesota companies to curb pollution.

Melissa Loth is assistant editor at *Twin Cities Business*.

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