

# Environment Committee

Wednesday, November 12, 2014; 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center  
Room 280

Committee Members:      John Autry, Chair  
                                    Ed Driggs, Vice Chair  
                                    David Howard  
                                    Claire Fallon  
                                    Kenny Smith

Staff Resource:              Carol Jennings, Chief of Staff

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## AGENDA

### I.      **Clean Diesel Construction**

*Staff Resources: Gina Shell and David Wolfe, Engineering & Property Management*

Staff will discuss the issue of clean diesel construction, specifically the issue of diesel in equipment used at construction sites. The Committee discussed this issue in 2013, resulting in a memo from Committee Chairman Autry to the Mayor and Council summarizing the discussions (memo attached).

Staff will review highlights of the previous discussions and offer possible approaches for Committee discussion.

*Action: None requested.*

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, December 10, 2014; 2:00 p.m., Room 280

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Distribution:	City Council	Ron Carlee, City Manager	Executive Team
	Bob Hagemann	Stephanie Kelly	Environmental Cabinet



## MEMORANDUM

December 2, 2013

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** John Autry, Chairman Environment Committee

**SUBJECT:** Environment Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council Regarding Clean Diesel Construction

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At the Council meeting on August 26, 2013, Council approved my request to refer the topic of Clean Diesel Construction to the Environment Committee. The topic of Clean Diesel Construction refers to efforts to minimize the health and climate impacts from diesel engine emissions associated with construction activities. Diesel engines power many types of construction equipment such as backhoes, loaders, and graders. Their emissions include fine particulate matter and nitrogen oxide which contributes to ground-level ozone.

Our Committee discussion, as intended, was limited to diesel emissions from equipment used by City staff in service provision and by contractors working on City-funded construction projects. Our discussion was not intended to address all construction-related diesel emissions in Charlotte.

The Environment Committee received three informative presentations from staff and also heard from Dr. Lawrence Raymond, MD, ScM, Department of Family Medicine & Corporate Health & Wellness, Carolinas HealthCare System; Dr. Stephen Keener, Mecklenburg County Medical Director; and Ted Hogan, Program Manager, Eastern Research Group, Inc. (Consultant to the Air Quality and Climate Change Work Group under the "CONNECT Our Future" Regional Initiative). The Committee also received comments from representatives of two current City contractors, one large firm and one small business enterprise.

The following bullets summarize some of our conclusions:

- Diesel emissions are a known health concern; however, Mecklenburg County air quality is improving each year.
- Private contractors generally support low-cost diesel emission reduction strategies such as anti-idling policies and equipment maintenance, but they have concerns about potential requirements or incentive programs aimed toward the replacement of older equipment.
- There would be a significant cost to the City to upgrade all City-owned diesel equipment.
- There would be a cost impact to the City to monitor and enforce any new contractor

requirements or incentives.

- There are legal considerations and risks to be weighed prior to establishing requirements.
- The regional “CONNECT” initiative may develop strategies to encourage cleaner equipment.

After three meetings on the topic, the Committee voted 3 to 2 (Autry, Pickering, Howard for; Fallon, Dulin opposed) to submit this summary report to current and new Council members. The Committee asks that the topic be brought up during Environment Focus Area Plan discussions for the purpose of further exploration, including possible establishment of potential measures against benchmarks and possible funding for the replacement or upgrade of City-owned equipment. I appreciate the Council’s future consideration of this action and will be happy to discuss it further.