

## US East Coast to tackle diesel PM

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Recovery funding will be used to reduce emissions around the Port (Photo: Port of Baltimore)

The State of Maryland on the US East Coast has received \$1.73 million in Recovery Funding from the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** in an effort to reduce diesel pollution in the area, according to the EPA.

"Reducing diesel emissions reduces air pollution and benefits our health," said **Maryland Department of the Environment** Secretary Shari T Wilson.

"This funding from the EPA will help reduce diesel emissions from marine vessels, construction equipment, school buses, drayage trucks and idling vehicles, which will in turn cut down on harmful air emissions and reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas," Wilson added.

Reducing diesel emissions from all transportation is a national priority for protecting the public's health, according to the EPA.

The money will go toward a number of technologies to cut diesel emissions, including the replacement of old diesel engines.

"The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) is proud to participate with our federal and state partners today to improve Maryland's air quality and make our state a better place to live," said MPA deputy executive director

M. Kathleen Broadwater.

The MPA oversees the public terminals at the **Port of Baltimore**.

In 2008 the port retrofitted diesel-powered dredging equipment with diesel particulate filters to cut emissions by more 90%. These retrofits were accomplished through a 2008 clean diesel grant from EPA.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, 2009.

**Natalie Bruckner-Menchelli**, 19th May 2009 18:29 GMT

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