



## **Northeast Diesel Collaborative Ports and Goods Movement Workgroup Charter**

**Approved April 16, 2014**

### ***Organization***

The **Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC)** combines the expertise of public and private partners in a coordinated regional initiative to significantly reduce diesel emissions and improve public health in the eight northeastern states. Established in 2005 by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions 1 and 2, and the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, the Collaborative focuses on reducing emissions of criteria air pollutants (primarily particulate matter and nitrogen oxides) and greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide) from vehicles and equipment typically fueled with diesel that travel the region's roads, serve the construction industry, and carry both cargo and passengers by water and rail.

### ***Mission***

The **NEDC Ports Workgroup** brings together government, industry, and port stakeholders to implement innovative, cost-effective strategies for reducing emissions, conserving fuel, promoting sustainability and "freight as a good neighbor" practices, and responding to climate change through mitigation and adaptation at ports in the Northeast.

### ***Vision***

The NEDC Ports Workgroup recognizes both the value of ports to the region as centers of economic vitality, and the challenge of reducing diesel emissions in a system with complex ownership, management, and operations. The workgroup engages partners, stakeholders, sponsors, and the public in a collaboration that builds an understanding of the region's diverse ports, and develops policies and projects that improve air quality and make business sense.

### ***Goals and Objectives***

*Goal 1: Promote among workgroup members an awareness and understanding of port operations*

Objectives:

- Understand ports as centers for the intermodal transfer of goods and people, with three zones of activity: water (ocean-going vessels, harbor craft), dockside / terminals (operations and equipment), and visitors (drayage trucks, rail)
- Share information about diesel emission reduction strategies and technologies being implemented at ports across the country
- Understand the business case for emission reductions at ports
- Identify and learn from emission reduction strategies and technologies being implemented in the Northeast

*Goal 2: Foster working relationships with the port industry*

Objectives:

- Meet with ports to learn about their operations and emission reduction initiatives
- Engage in discussions with port operators, tenants, and industry to create awareness of state and federal environmental programs
- Engage in ongoing discussions about emission reduction opportunities at the ports

*Goal 3: Sustain the NEDC Ports Workgroup*

Objectives:

- Obtain representation from as many Northeast ports, port tenants and business partners as possible
- Build relationships with community, environmental, and civic stakeholder groups
- Encourage state and federal transportation officials to participate
- Recruit workgroup co-chairs from general membership, to achieve a balance—one EPA chair, one non-EPA (ideally from ports sector)
- Participate in or regularly communicate with other regional organizations or workgroups that share common goals

*Goal 5: Generate and support emissions reduction strategies at Northeast Ports*

Objectives:

- Bring the best available information and examples of emissions reduction & sustainability approaches from ports outside and inside the region to this group
- Support member ports in shaping and implementing their own strategies
- Seek funding to help ports and their partners implement strategies

*Goal 6: Achieve measurable emission reductions from port operations in the Northeast*

Objectives:

- Implement emission reduction measures (projects and policies) at ports
- Quantify air quality and public health benefits from port projects and policies
- Quantify cost effectiveness of port projects and policies

*Goal 7: Increase public awareness about emissions and successes at ports*

Objectives:

- Coordinate with other state and federal programs focused on ports to unify messages
- Hold or participate in events to showcase plans, projects, and successes at Northeast ports
- Promote projects and successes at Northeast ports on the NEDC website, in presentations, and at conferences and press events

*Strategies*

**Participation:** The workgroup welcomes active participation from any interested party (public, private, nonprofit, or individual) who wishes to work toward the shared vision, mission, and objectives of the workgroup. Workgroup membership will expand gradually via invitation from existing members, following a discussion with the chairmen and the workgroup. Members may invite any interested party to participate in one or more calls on an informal basis with the chairmen's approval.

**Organization:** The current workgroup co-chairs are EPA Regions 1 and 2, but other members are welcome to volunteer to help steer the group. The co-chairs will organize regular conference calls, including presentations from guest speakers, and maintain the group's web page. Initiative and support for group projects will come from all members.

**Communication:** The workgroup will foster open communication among its members. In general, full workgroup conference calls will be held at a regular date/time every other month, with more specific or subgroup meetings as necessary. Any workgroup member may suggest agenda topics or request time on the agenda for relevant topics. Members are asked to avoid "reply all" communications to the group, instead channeling suggestions and inquiries to the co-chairs, who in turn will send to the group. The agenda and any other materials for the call will be e-mailed to the workgroup about a week before each conference call.

**Strategic Planning:** The workgroup will re-evaluate the goals, objectives, and priorities periodically to ensure continued progress toward achieving its mission and vision.