



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Commerce City Retrofits Fleet Vehicles to Improve Northeast Denver Air Quality

**Commerce City, Colo.** – In an effort to improve air quality in the northeast Denver region, Commerce City and the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) partnered with Instrument Sales and Service, Inc. to install emission reduction equipment on some of the City's off-road diesel fleet vehicles.

The City received a grant from the RAQC to equip four tandem off-road dump trucks/on-road snow plows with pollution reduction equipment, often referred to as "retrofit technology." The equipment currently being installed on the vehicles is the combination of diesel oxidation catalysts and Spiracles in order to receive maximum pollution reduction benefits.

Diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs) replace the muffler and are installed in the exhaust system. The ceramic core catalyst is coated with precious metals that trigger chemical reactions which breakdown pollutants – carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC), and particulate matter (PM) – into harmless gases when engine exhaust passes through the system. The Spiracles are closed crankcase systems that completely eliminate all of the emissions coming from the crankcase which equates to 25 percent of total vehicle emissions. The combination of DOCs and Spiracles is estimated to reduce HC emissions by 40 percent, PM emissions by 28 to 32 percent, and CO emissions by 31 to 34 percent, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Partners hope to significantly reduce emissions from City vehicles that spend time in various residential neighborhoods, especially those emitting emissions near schools and homes. "These vehicles are in use quite a bit during the year, especially in the winter" says Larry Bligh, Fleet Manager for Commerce City. "This new equipment will really help reduce emissions in the areas where we need it most." The installation of

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## *Commerce City Retrofit Project*

the new technology will mark the first time off-road diesel fleet vehicles are retrofit in this area.

Funding for this project is part of a larger \$75,000 grant awarded to the RAQC by the EPA to retrofit off-road vehicles in the Denver-metropolitan area as part of a program called Diesel Initiative for Retrofit Technology (D.I.R.T.). Commerce City is using \$12,000 to retrofit fleet vehicles while the remaining \$60,000 will go to another large private fleet to retrofit excavating equipment.

The D.I.R.T program is part of a larger RAQC effort called Clean Air Fleets that encompasses many aspects of diesel emission reduction projects including the retrofit of on- and off-road vehicles and school bus fleets as well as education for fleet managers and operators on diesel best maintenance practices. “We are very proud of our diesel efforts in the area,” says Ken Lloyd, Executive Director for the RAQC. “The retrofits in Commerce City are just one example of the partnership between the RAQC and local governments to improve the region’s air and we hope to continue this and similar efforts in the future.” The RAQC is expanding Clean Air Fleets this year to include an anti-idling outreach and education component for local fleets and will continue to partner with other organizations to achieve an even larger emissions reduction benefits throughout the region.

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*The Regional Air Quality Council is the lead air quality planning agency for the seven-county Denver-metropolitan region. In existence since 1989, the Council’s main purpose is to develop plans and programs to keep the region in compliance with federal air quality standards, with significant input from area citizens, businesses, and local governments. The RAQC also oversees the development and implementation of air quality outreach and education programs throughout the region.*