

San Leandro Firm Clears the Air of Diesel Fumes



Publisher: The San Leandro Times
 San Leandro, California
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 Date: October 19, 2006

Does the air seem cleaner? Do local garbage trucks and buses appear to be pumping out less black soot? If so, the people to thank are located right here in San Leandro.

The company is Cleaire (pronounced “klee-air”), and their business is in retrofitting diesel engines with exhaust purifiers. The company does this through a process called “After-treatment”. This involves placing air purifiers over the exhaust streams of vehicles with diesel engines.

Cleaire produces two models of these purifiers. The first is the “Horizon” model which is a plug-in style purifier that is used for transit buses and school buses. The second model is the “The Longview” which is best for use in long-haul trucks.

The benefit of these purifiers lies in their reduction of air polluting particles. A vehicle with either of these two filters reduces their particle output by 85 percent. This type of pollution has been linked to such health problems as asthma, bronchitis, an increased risk of cancer and premature death.

“A common theme in all of our products is that we are always trying to get the highest levels of particulate control and to keep the NOx and Co2 levels as low as possible,” said Brad Edgar, vice president and Chief Technology Officer.

On a local level Cleaire has contracts with AC Transit and Waste Management which serve all of San Leandro and San Lorenzo.

In Northern California and the Bay Area Cleaire has retrofitted approximately 1,400 buses and trucks with these air purifiers. There are still some 1,700 retrofits in process which should be completed by the end of the year.

Cleaire hopes to be involved in retrofits on buses in local school districts as well, including San Leandro Unified. This plan could come to fruition soon if Bond Measure 1B passes in this November’s election. This bond would provide funding to retrofit local school buses with diesel air purifiers.

Though the company is located in San Leandro, primarily because of its association with Cummins West, Edgar says the company is happy with its current locale and has no plans to move outside the city.

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“We have a commitment to stay in San Leandro,” said Edgar, “We’ve talked with Mayor Young about it and she’s been very supportive. There’s an ongoing joke that we bring green-collar jobs to the Bay Area.” #