



FAQ's for AeroGRADE 2019-Pilot

- 1. How are projects selected for funding?** After your application is received, it will be assessed based on factors like project feasibility and location (priority will be given to projects in Mecklenburg County, specifically those with an impact to environmental justice areas). In addition, pollution reductions will be calculated by air quality staff and project will be ranked according to pollution reduced per grant dollar spent. The most cost-effective projects will rank the highest. An awards selection committee comprised of air quality professionals and environmental advocates representing will make the final selections.
- 2. Once a project is approved, when will I receive the money?** AeroGRADE-Pilot is a reimbursement program. A funding agreement between the grant recipient and Mecklenburg County will be signed. The project can then be completed and paid for by the recipient. The money does not get disbursed until the contract documents are signed and returned, the project has been completed, and copies of all supporting documentation are submitted to Mecklenburg County for final approval. In other words, the customer pays for the project out of their capital expense fund and then gets a reimbursement check from Mecklenburg County to cover the approved amount.
- 3. Can I sell my old equipment to offset the cost of new or repowered equipment?** No. The old equipment must be permanently destroyed.
- 4. Why is the funding agreement with Mecklenburg County?** Mecklenburg County is the only local government in the Charlotte region with a fully staffed Air Quality department. Therefore, Mecklenburg County, on behalf of the 8 counties within the maintenance region, applied for and received EPA grant funds for local disbursement to improve local air quality.
- 5. How long will I have to complete the project?** Typically, all projects must be completed within 6 months of submitting a signed funding agreement to Mecklenburg County. All projects must ultimately be complete by October 31, 2020.
- 6. How much funding can I receive?** AeroGRADE-Pilot replacement and repower grants are funded up to 100% of the cost of new electric equipment and repowered hybrid-electric equipment.



- 7. Is a match required?** No. AeroGRADE-Pilot replacement and repower grants are funded up to 100% of the cost of new electric equipment and repowered hybrid-electric equipment. However, the cost of vehicle charging infrastructure (charging stations) is NOT eligible for reimbursement.
- 8. Am I eligible to receive a grant?** In general, in order to be eligible for funding for an equipment replacement or repower, the award recipient will have to verify that the equipment to be replaced is currently in proper working order and would otherwise continue to operate in the eligible region at least 75% of the time for the next 3 years. Additionally, the replacement or repowered equipment must be used for the same or similar purpose as the retired equipment and will operate in the eligible region at least 75% of the time over the next 5 to 10 years. See project guidelines for specific eligibility requirements.
- 9. Will I be eligible for replacement or repower cost reimbursement if I finance my equipment?** Yes, financing is a purchase option that will be eligible for reimbursement funding should a grant be awarded. Additional documentation will be necessary to complete the funding agreement for candidates using this option. However, any leased equipment will NOT be eligible for the grant.
- 10. Will I be issued an IRS form 1099 if I accept grant money?** Yes, Mecklenburg County will issue an IRS form 1099 if any vendor/recipient is paid \$1,500 or more. Please consult your tax advisor to properly report any grant money received.
- 11. Who can I call for help with the application?** If a particular question and answer is not listed above, or if additional help is needed to complete an application, contact the AeroGRADE-Pilot Grant Administrator at 704-336-5430 or by email at Sheldon.Turner@MeckNC.gov.