



AeroGRADE Funding Guidelines

August 2019

Overview of AeroGRADE

AeroGRADE is a grant funding opportunity for owners of diesel-powered ground support equipment (GSE). AeroGRADE will assist with the purchase of new, *electric* GSE with the primary goal of reducing nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from diesel engines. Reducing NOx emissions will lead to a reduction in ozone pollution throughout the Charlotte region.

The AeroGRADE grant is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. The grant program is administered by Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) and is modeled after other successful incentive-based programs aimed at achieving voluntary NOx emissions by companies that own and operate diesel engine equipment.

Benefits to AeroGRADE Award Recipients

Benefits to owners that receive an AeroGRADE funding grant award include the following:

- reduced equipment maintenance costs
- newer, more efficient equipment
- positive public image for making good air quality choices
- health benefits to the community and to equipment operators

AeroGRADE Application

To apply for an AeroGRADE grant, please go to www.GRADEplus.net and complete the applicable form for your project. Applications should be submitted on or before **September 30, 2019** by email to:

Mecklenburg County Air Quality
Attn: Sheldon Turner
Email: Sheldon.Turner@MeckNC.gov

Applications who do not have access to email should contact MCAQ to arrange to submit the application by mail or fax. The submission deadline still applies.

Submittal of the application form does not guarantee acceptance. Due to limited funding, all eligible projects may not receive funding.

Project Selection Criteria

Mecklenburg County Air Quality | 2145 Suttle Avenue | Charlotte, NC 28208-5237
Office: 704-336-5430 | Email: Sheldon.Turner@MeckNC.gov | Fax: 704-336-4391



Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Amount of NOx pollution reduced (Calculated by MCAQ)
- Cost per pound of NOx pollution reduced (Calculated by MCAQ)
- Amount of time spent in eligible region

Mecklenburg County reserves the right to reject all applications and make no/fewer awards than disclosed under this call for projects.

Eligible Projects

AeroGRADE will primarily fund the replacement of diesel-powered GSE with new, electric-powered GSE, operating 100% of the time at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT). CLT is located in Mecklenburg County, NC and is ranked the tenth busiest airport in the United States, according to World Atlas. If necessary, AeroGRADE will be expanded to include any of the smaller regional and municipal airports found throughout the 8-county Charlotte-Rock Hill, NC-SC Ozone Maintenance area (i.e. the “eligible region”).

Project Type	Description	Maximum Funding
Airport GSE Equipment Replacement	Replace diesel GSE with new electric GSE	Up to 25% of cost of new GSE

An equipment replacement involves permanently removing an old vehicle from service by destroying the entire unit and replacing it with a new model. Before receiving reimbursement, the award recipient will have to provide documentation certifying that the old vehicle has been permanently destroyed so that it cannot be sold or used.

In order to be eligible for funding for equipment replacement, 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 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 10 years. Equipment must also meet this following horsepower and age requirements:

Current equipment horsepower	Current Engine Model Year
25-50	2006 or newer
51-300	1996 or newer
301+	1986 or newer

Eligible Expenses

AeroGRADE is a reimbursement grant, which means the award recipients will be reimbursed for approved expenses *after* the project has been completed (new equipment purchased, and old equipment destroyed). *No expenses incurred prior to notice of award will be reimbursed.* Award



recipients will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Mecklenburg County, which outlines the terms and conditions of the reimbursement.

Expenses that **are** eligible for reimbursement under this program include:

- Invoice cost of new vehicle including sales tax and delivery charges
- Costs to remove and dispose of the old vehicle
- Other costs directly related to the project, subject to approval

Expenses that **are not** eligible for reimbursement under this program include:

- Expenses for in-house labor and travel
- Expenses not directly related to the purchase of the new equipment/engine
- Ancillary repair costs
- Long-term operational, maintenance, or repair costs
- Interest or loan fees, application costs, and/or consulting fees

The cost of the new vehicle minus any scrappage value for the old vehicle will constitute the total cost of the vehicle replacement. If an exact scrappage value is not provided, a value of \$1,000 will be assumed by default.

If funding is awarded but conditions of the funding agreement are not met by the recipient, Mecklenburg County can require a return of a pro rata share of the grant award funds.