The most cost-effective upgrades make the biggest health impact

New Tier 4 engines for switchers reduce NOx emissions by 95%

The $2.9 billion VW Environmental Mitigation Trust provides funding to upgrade older vehicles and equipment to rapidly reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which contribute to hazardous smog pollution. Upgrading just one of the oldest, dirtiest switchers is like taking tens of thousands of passenger vehicles off the road per year, bringing substantial health benefits to at-risk communities. With states now deciding how to invest these funds, repowering these older switchers with cleaner Tier 4 engines is a game-changer for delivering immediate and cost-effective air quality benefits.

Upgrading an old switcher with new Tier 4 engines removes

9 tons of NOx/year¹

This is equivalent to

Replacing 29² older trucks

OR

Removing 8,000 cars for 1 year³

Upgrading old engines means cleaner air for all

EPA estimates that by 2020, only 5% of switcher engines will be replaced with cleaner Tier 4 engines. The VW Environmental Mitigation Trust provides a rare opportunity to retire the oldest diesel engines still in operation, which can last 70 years or longer. Tier 4 engines will deliver cleaner, healthier air faster to at-risk communities. These new engines also improve fuel efficiency, which reduces CO₂ and black carbon emissions, two important greenhouse gas pollutants.

Switcher projects are a better value

1 ton of NOx reduction costs

Tier 4 switcher engines $15,000¹

Other projects $30,000¹

1. Ramboll, 2018, Emission reductions and cost effectiveness for marine and locomotive projects
2. EPA, 2016, National Port Strategy Assessment
3. Tier 2 car driven 15,000 miles per year
4. FHWA, 2015 CMAQ Cost-Effectiveness Report