

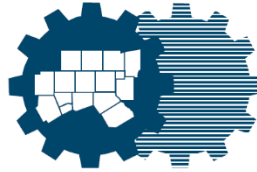
NORTH TEXAS FREIGHT TERMINAL ELECTRIFICATION

CALL FOR PROJECTS

2020 APPLICATION ROUND GUIDELINES

Updated: November 10, 2022

North Central Texas Council of Governments
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011
www.nctcog.org/aqfunding
AQgrants@nctcog.org



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

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INTRODUCTION

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program, is offering approximately \$1 million in rebate funding through this Call for Projects (CFP) for projects that reduce idling from transport refrigeration units (TRUs) of heavy-duty diesel trucks and trailers. Specifically, rebate funding will be used to assist in construction and installation of EPA SmartWay-verified electrified parking spaces (EPS) at truck terminals and distribution centers in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) ten-county ozone nonattainment area that will be used to power TRUs while heavy-duty trucks and trailers are on stand-by or currently loading or unloading. NCTCOG will provide rebates to cover up to 30 percent of eligible project unit costs.

Ten counties in the North Central Texas region were reclassified from moderate to serious nonattainment in August 2019 under the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This means ground-level ozone pollution levels in these counties exceed the EPA's ozone NAAQS. Ozone is formed when nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds mix in the presence of sunlight and heat. Breathing ground-level ozone can result in several health effects that are observed in broad segments of the population. Evidence from observational studies indicates that higher daily ozone concentrations are associated with increased hospital admissions and other markers of morbidity¹. In addition to threatening human health, high ozone concentrations pose a risk to the environment, wildlife, agriculture, and manufactured structures in the region. Ozone nonattainment can also cost the region economically, as businesses may be subject to more strict regulations, such as requirements to install emission control devices. It can also put funding to build new roadways at risk.

Programs to reduce NOx emissions from mobile sources, which comprise approximately 67 percent of ozone forming pollutants, are an important element of working toward ozone attainment. Despite exponential population growth, which results in more vehicle miles traveled in the DFW nonattainment area, ground-level ozone concentrations have improved substantially in the past twenty years. On October 26, 2015, the EPA lowered the 8-hour ozone NAAQS to ≤70 parts per billion² (2015 ozone NAAQS). Under the 2015 ozone NAAQS, nine counties were designated marginal nonattainment. With the adoption of the 2015 ozone NAAQS, it is important to continue implementing emissions-reductions projects to work toward lower and lower ozone levels. For additional information about ozone emissions and efforts to improve air quality in North Central Texas, visit www.nctcog.org/airquality.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit any questions or comments to:

Email: AQgrants@nctcog.org

Subject Line: ATTN: NTFTE 2020

NCTCOG Project Staff:

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Website: www.nctcog.org/aqfunding

SCHEDULE

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a competitive basis. See the “Application Process” section for more details.

Milestone	Estimated Timeframe
Call for Projects Application Opens	October 12, 2020
Call for Projects Application Deadline	Every three months, at 5 pm Central Time, Beginning January 8, 2021 and Continuing Until All Funds Awarded or Final Application Deadline Reached
Proposals Evaluated & Selected	Within 60 Days of Application Deadline
Awarded Projects Announced	Within 60 Days of Application Deadline
Awardees to Receive Agreements for Execution and Approval to Purchase	Within 60 Days of Rebate Announcement
All Approved Projects Must Be Completed	March 1, 2022 February 26, 2023 March 1, 2024

Project Dates

Projects must be implemented, and final reimbursement request submitted by ~~March 1, 2022 February 26, 2023~~ **March 1, 2024**. NCTCOG expects notifying rebate recipients of award within two months after application deadline.

ELIGIBLE REBATE RECIPIENTS & PROJECT AREA

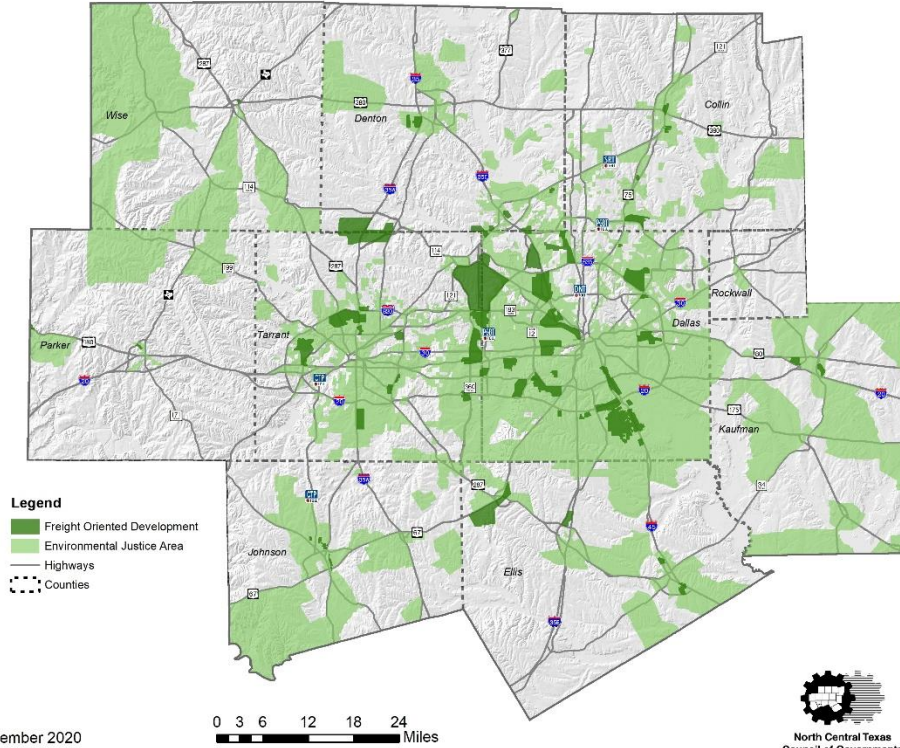
Eligible rebate recipients include any entity which owns and/or operates private freight terminals or distribution centers that primarily receive heavy-duty truck TRUs and trailer TRUs and are located in the ten counties currently classified as nonattainment for the pollutant ozone; this includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise counties. Exhibit 1 displays all eligible counties. Project activities located within environmental justice and freight-oriented development areas within the ozone non-attainment counties will receive scoring consideration for this rebate.

In addition, all rebate recipients must submit an online risk assessment:

- NCTCOG will conduct a risk assessment of all anticipated rebate recipients prior to final selection. This assessment includes the following elements:
 - Financial/organizational capacity
 - History of performance for federal funds
 - Experience in carrying out a federally compliant procurements, and the proposed procurement approach for this project
 - Results of previous audits
 - Past performance on NCTCOG-related grants
- NCTCOG is not obligated to fund a proposal from a rebate recipient that has demonstrated marginal or unsatisfactory performance on previous grants or contracts with NCTCOG and/or other state or federal agencies.

- NCTCOG is not obligated to fund a proposal from a rebate recipient based on a determination of the risks, including the financial condition of the recipient and other risk factors as may be determined by NCTCOG.

Exhibit 1: Geographic Area for Eligible EPS Projects



PROJECT ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Projects that demonstrate an emission reduction, especially of nitrogen oxides (NOx), and implementation feasibility will be considered favorably for rebate award.

The following requirements will apply to all rebate recipients under this program. NCTCOG reserves the right to withhold rebate payment or request return of funds if these requirements are not met and/or not sufficiently documented. Potential rebate recipients should consider these conditions carefully when evaluating whether to submit a rebate application.

Eligible Project Types:

Electrified Parking Spaces:

Construction and installation of EPA-verified EPS systems at truck terminals and distribution centers in the ozone non-attainment area as illustrated in Exhibit 1. All projects must implement an EPA-verified EPS system which is listed on the SmartWay Verified Idle Reduction Technologies website at www.epa.gov/verified-diesel-tech/smartway-verified-list-idling-reduction-technologies-irts-trucks-and-school. Projects must be designed to provide power to only eTRUs of heavy-duty trucks and trailers working in freight goods movement.

Power Monitoring Equipment:

Installation of one electric power monitoring equipment per site. Monitoring equipment shall monitor the usage at EPS specifically.

Electric Power Kits:

Installation of connection equipment that aids transport refrigeration units to connect receptacles and pedestal in order to keep refrigerated trucks and trailers operating during standby operations, loading, and unloading without having to run the diesel engine.

Replacement of diesel truck TRUs or trailer TRUs will not be funded. All funded systems, equipment and kits must remain in use for at least four years from the date of deployment. This four-year period is referred to as the Activity Life.

Rebate Award:

Cost Eligibility:

Activity	Maximum Funding Levels	Estimated Unit Cost
Electrified Parking Spaces	30%, up to \$3,600/space	\$12,000
Power Monitoring Equipment	30%, up to \$1,800/equipment	\$6,000
Electric Power Kits	30%, up to \$900/kit	\$3,000

Eligible Costs include equipment, construction, and installation costs of EPS systems required for completion of the project. Rebates will pay for up to 30 percent of the estimated unit cost.

Ineligible Costs include:

- Fees associated with Buy Boards or financing.
- Administrative costs and other internal costs of the rebate recipient including, but not limited to, personnel expenses, internal salaries, indirect costs, and travel.
- Fees for third-party consultant or dealer hired to coordinate the application or manage and administer rebate-funded activities, including coordination of the work and submission of reports and paperwork. This restriction is not intended to limit the ability of the equipment supplier or installer to include reasonable and necessary costs for managing the work to be performed in the price of the equipment or installation services. Per the Uniform Grant Management Standards, the cost-plus-percentage-of-cost method of contracting for professional services shall not be used.

Cost Estimate: Rebate recipients must submit a cost estimate, which will be the basis for determining the maximum rebate amount based on applicable funding thresholds. Rebate recipients are advised to consult multiple vendors, if applicable, to ensure that estimated costs are as accurate and realistic as possible.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application forms are available through www.nctcog.org/aqfunding; click on the box called “Funding for Other Strategies That Improve Air Quality” and select the link titled “North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 Call for Projects”. Applications must include original signatures from the Authorized Official on the certification statements in the application. As part of applying, rebate recipients must also complete a Risk Assessment Questionnaire, which is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JW65WWP>
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AQCFP2021>.

The first application deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday January 8, 2021 with application deadlines continuing every three months until all funds are awarded or until the final application deadline of April 9, 2021 October 8, 2021 February 1, 2023 March 1, 2023 is reached.

Submit a hard copy Application and all needed attachments by 5 p.m. on the deadline date. Applications received after that time will be considered with applications submitted for the next application deadline. Applications received after 5 p.m. on the final deadline will not be considered and will be returned unopened. **This hard copy submittal with original “wet” signatures will count as the official submittal and must be mailed or delivered to the following address by 5 p.m. Central Time on the appropriate deadline:**

**North Central Texas Council of Governments
Transportation Department
North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 Call for Projects
Attention: AQ Grants
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011**

In addition to the hard copy submittal, NCTCOG requires an electronic submission of the Application and all needed attachments to aggrants@nctcog.org. Electronic-only submissions will **not** be evaluated.

Applications for the North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 Call for Projects will be accepted on a competitive, first-come, first-served basis. **Hard copy applications received “in hand” by 5 p.m. every three months beginning Friday, January 8, 2021, will be considered competitively with applications received since the preceding deadline. Evaluation will be based on the selection criteria outlined on page 7.** Mailed applications which are postmarked by this time but have not yet been received are not considered “in hand.” Applications must be in a sealed envelope with a return address on the outside. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

Rebate recipients are encouraged to submit in advance of the deadline to allow staff time to review for completeness.

Steps to Apply: All of the items listed below must be complete and “in hand” by the application deadline for a project to be deemed complete.

- Submit Risk Assessment Questionnaire (including any required attachments)
- Submit completed and signed Application Form (including Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3)

Use of Consultants:

Private consultants may be available to assist in completing and submitting an application. These consultants do not represent NCTCOG, and NCTCOG neither encourages nor discourages the use of a consultant to assist with the application process. NCTCOG has no agreement with any consultant and applications submitted by a particular consultant will not receive any more favorable treatment than other applications. Fees charged by a consultant are the responsibility of the rebate recipient and may not be included in the rebate, either directly or as an addition to the cost basis of the rebate-funded equipment. Moreover, NCTCOG staff are available to field application questions as needed.

DUNS Number & SAM Registration:

Rebate recipients are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, and a current registration with the System for Award Management (SAM). Rebate recipients can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the D&B Website at www.dnb.com/us/. Rebate recipients can receive free SAM registration at www.SAM.gov. If a DUNS number or SAM has not yet been assigned, please include the date the rebate recipient requested a number.

Emissions Credit:

Rebate recipient must surrender all emissions reductions to NCTCOG to meet air quality requirements and goals. The recipient may not utilize emissions reductions to satisfy other air quality commitments unless otherwise agreed to by NCTCOG.

Voluntary Reductions:

Projects must be voluntary in nature and not required by any local, state, or federal law, rule, regulation, memorandum of agreement, or other legally binding document.

SELECTION CRITERIA

NCTCOG will evaluate submitted applications based upon a competitive process focusing on cost-effectiveness, diesel emissions reduction effectiveness, and implementation feasibility/risk.

NCTCOG will evaluate and rank eligible applications based on the following criteria:

- **Quantitative Analysis: Cost Effectiveness (75% of total score)**
 - Cost per ton of NO_x reduced in the ten-county ozone nonattainment area

- **Qualitative Assessment: Project Location and Rebate Recipient Oversight (25% of total score)**
 - Location of Emissions Reductions
 - Projects located within or near Environmental Justice areas of the eligible geographic area, which may result in emissions reductions which more effectively impact critical ozone monitors
 - Projects located in close proximity to freight corridors
 - The project's emissions benefits will be compared to NCTCOG's burden to administer the project.

NCTCOG may base funding decisions on factors associated with best achieving the purpose of the CFP, and is not obligated to select a project for funding. Additionally, NCTCOG may select parts of an application for funding or offer to fund less than the amount requested in an application.

REBATE ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Rebates are participant support costs used for subsidies, and similar one-time, lump-sum payments to rebate recipients for the purchase of eligible emission control technologies and vehicle replacements. They are not considered subawards/subgrants as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, under this award and should not be treated as such.

Successful rebate recipients will be notified of their selection and rebate amounts awarded. Entities selected to receive a rebate will be required to execute an agreement with NCTCOG in order to receive rebate award. Services or work carried out under an agreement awarded as a result of this CFP must be completed within the scope of work, timeframe, and funding limitations specified by the agreement. **Under no circumstances will rebates be issued for costs incurred prior to execution of an Agreement.** Upon signature and execution of the agreement by NCTCOG, a copy of the executed agreement will be returned to the rebate recipient.

Rebate will be made on a reimbursement basis for eligible expenses incurred and paid by the rebate recipient. A cost may not be considered incurred until the rebate-funded equipment has been paid for by the rebate recipient. Requests for reimbursement shall include documentation to show that the equipment has been received and expenses paid by the rebate recipient. Rebate request forms are available at www.nctcog.org/aqfunding/forms.asp.

To further enhance the partnership and market emission reduction efforts, the rebate recipient must agree to place a label on rebate-funded assets if requested by NCTCOG.

Awarded rebate recipients are obligated to fulfill agreement requirements including, but not limited to, achievement of monthly usage requirements, surrender of eligible emissions credits, and completion of reporting requirements to NCTCOG for the Activity Life of the project. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in return of all or a proportional share of the rebate funds to NCTCOG.

NCTCOG will notify all Rebate recipients whether the project has been awarded and, if so, rebate fund amounts awarded. The notification will be sent to all points of contact identified on the rebate application. This notification, which informs the rebate recipient that its application has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not authorization to begin work. Entities selected to receive rebate funding will be required to execute an agreement with NCTCOG in order to receive rebate funding.

Rebate recipients who receive a rebate award will be required to meet with NCTCOG staff prior to implementing their project to explain all rebate expectations. If awarded, the steps to implement generally are as follows:

Step 1: Sign Agreement with NCTCOG

No rebate activities may begin until after the agreement between NCTCOG and the rebate recipient is fully executed. "Rebate activities" in this case includes vendor selection or placement of equipment purchase orders. All activities must be on hold until execution of a rebate agreement and approval by NCTCOG.

Step 2: Complete Purchases in Accordance with Agreement and Scope Requirements

Rebate recipients will be required to complete purchases per the executed agreement and as detailed in the project scope of work.

Step 3: Submit for Reimbursement

Rebates will be made on a reimbursement basis for eligible expenses incurred and paid by the rebate recipient. A cost may not be considered incurred until the rebate-funded equipment has been paid for by the rebate recipient. Requests for reimbursement shall include documentation to show that the equipment has been received and expenses paid by the rebate recipient. All eligible expenses must be paid in full with cash on-hand (not financed, etc.) in order to be reimbursed. Prospective rebate recipients should discuss any potential requirement for flexibility with NCTCOG staff prior to applying. Reimbursement request forms are available at <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/agreement-information-and-forms>.

Rebate recipients must notify NCTCOG of the value of any existing financial incentives that directly reduce the cost of the proposed activity, including tax credits or deductions, other grants, or any other public financial assistance, to allow for accurate calculation of incremental cost.

Rebate recipients must identify expected local match sources, which must fund at least 70 percent of total replacement project cost depending on type of replacement vehicle/equipment. Matching funds should be sourced from cash in hand. Matching funds must not already be tied to other emission reduction commitments (i.e. funding from the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan or Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program may not be used as matching funds).

Step 4: Reporting and Vehicle/Equipment Use

- **Project Status Report:** Rebate recipients must submit reports regarding project status on a monthly basis until final reimbursement is issued.
- **Annual Reporting:** Although federal property management requirements will not apply, NCTCOG reserves the right to require periodic reports on use and condition of rebate-funded assets to ensure responsible stewardship of the federal investment and monitor achievement of expected environmental benefits. Reporting includes, but is not limited to, the following information for each activity:
 - Hours
 - Asset Condition, includes pictures of equipment
 - Location/Area of Operation
- **Geographic Area of Use:** All rebate-funded equipment must be utilized predominantly in the ten-county DFW ozone nonattainment area, as outlined in the section 'Eligible Rebate recipients and Project Area', throughout the four-year Activity Life.
- **Public Awareness:** To further enhance the partnership and marketing of emission reduction efforts, the rebate recipient must agree to place a label on rebate-funded equipment if requested by NCTCOG.
- **Notification of Changes:** Recipients must agree to notify NCTCOG of changes in the following during the Activity Life until all federal interest is fulfilled:
 - Termination of use
 - Change in use or location
 - Sale

- Transfer
- Or accidental or intentional destruction of rebate-funded equipment/engines.

Awarded Rebate recipients are obligated to fulfill agreement requirements including, but not limited to, surrender of eligible emissions credits, and completion of reporting requirements to NCTCOG until all federal interest in the rebate-funded equipment is fulfilled. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in return of all or a pro-rata share of the rebate funds to NCTCOG.

1 <https://www.epa.gov/ozone-pollution-and-your-patients-health/health-effects-ozone-general-population>

2 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-26/pdf/2015-26594.pdf>

https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl