



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

July 10, 2013

Mr. Jason Rayfield
Air Quality Program Manager
Mecklenburg County – GRADE Program
700 North Tryon Street
Suite 205
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Dear Mr. Rayfield:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Mecklenburg County GRADE Program (GRADE) has been selected to receive the 2012 Southeast Diesel Collaborative (SEDC) Visionary Leadership Award. This award is presented annually for projects that best exemplify extraordinary leadership in promoting the goal of the Collaborative. The SEDC is a public, private partnership formed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 office in 2006 to improve air quality and public health by reducing emissions from existing diesel engines. We believe it is critical that organizations that are improving air quality in the region through superior practices and policies be recognized by their peers and promoted as examples of exceptional corporate environmental stewards.

Nominated parties are judged on their effectiveness in meeting the SEDC's goal and objectives and the degree to which they display exemplary leadership and inspire others to step up their efforts to reduce diesel emissions. Mecklenburg County's GRADE program is the winner of this award for their successful efforts implementing programs to reduce transportation related emissions, in educational outreach, and by sustainable funding to continue implementing clean diesel project partnerships. The early years of the GRADE construction rebate program serves as a model for an EPA national pilot program that will be launched this year. Most recently, the airline rebate program under AeroGRADE is operating as the first program of its kind in the United States. These efforts demonstrated exemplary leadership, serving as a role model for others to follow, and displayed effective collaboration and partnership, including the use of innovative technology and approaches to reducing diesel emissions.

In recognition of this award, the Mecklenburg County GRADE Program will receive a trophy for display at your office and we will coordinate with you for a press event to publicly recognize your successful efforts. You are invited to attend the SEDC 8th Annual Partners Meeting in Atlanta on September 17-18, where the EPA management and the SEDC Leadership Council will present the official award. There will be an opportunity for official photographs and an acceptance speech.

Congratulations again on your award selection. Please contact Kelly Sheckler of my staff at (404) 562-9222 or sheckler.kelly@epa.gov to accept this award and to arrange for further details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Scott Davis".

R. Scott Davis
Chief
Air Planning Branch