



## **Repair Your Air Campaign (2003-ongoing)**

### **I. Introduction/Background**

The Repair Your Air Campaign (RYAC) – a program utilizing remote sensing technology to identify high-emitting vehicles – was developed following recommendations from two separate stakeholder processes. These stakeholder groups included private citizens, industry, academia and state and local governments. A stakeholder group convened in 2000 at the request of then Gov. Owens, was charged with evaluating the existing Inspection/Maintenance Program (I/M) and recommending improvements. The group recommended the development of a high-emitter identification and enforcement program using remote sensing technology.

A subsequent stakeholder group convened in 2002 further investigated options to reduce pollution from both visibly smoking and non-visibly polluting, high-emitting vehicles. The group identified two strategies – a smoking vehicle enforcement program and a remote sensing program to identify and repair these two categories of high-emitting vehicles.

In 2003, the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) used these recommendations as leverage to develop RYAC. Partnering with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR) and Envirotec Systems, Inc., the RAQC implemented the voluntary program with the goal of reducing ozone-forming hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO) and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) by identifying high-emitting vehicles with the State's remote sensing based RapidScreen Program. The campaign additionally worked to educate the public on the benefits of vehicle maintenance on reducing emissions.

In 2006, the State of Colorado passed legislation for a mandatory high-emitter pilot program similar to RYAC. The legislation, Colorado House Bill 1302, charges CDPHE to evaluate the feasibility of a full-scale remote sensing based high-emitter program to supplement and/or replace the current I/M Program. The pilot program, started in January 2008, targets high-emitting vehicles and requires the owners to repair the vehicle. Currently, RYAC provides financial assistance to participants of the mandatory program for emissions related vehicle repairs.

Repair assistance is offered to vehicles that fail the emissions test or are identified as having an evaporative fuel leak. Owners of vehicles with evaporative leaks are not mandated to fix their vehicle by law but are highly encouraged to complete repairs due to the potentially large source of emissions caused by these leaks. To supplement repair efforts, the RAQC also offers a voluntary salvage program for vehicles when repairs exceed the value of the vehicle.

### **II. Program Partners**

The RAQC collaborates with several agencies to implement the RYAC. Partners include Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR), Envirotec Systems Inc., and participating repair shops.

### **III. Funding**

To-date the program has expended approximately \$2 million. Funding comes through federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grants, administered by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP), and donations by private entities. Current program funding includes:

- a. CMAQ New Energy Fleets for 2009-2011 – \$200,000
- b. Suncor donation for 2009-2010 – \$300,000
- c. SEPs for 2009 and beyond – \$250,000

### **IV. Implementation**

Program operations have been simplified throughout the six years of its existence. Remote sensing vans, operated as a part of the State's RapidScreen Program, identify high-emitting vehicle owners when their car, truck or van exceeds the hydrocarbon (HC) emissions threshold. Owners of vehicles identified as potential high-emitters are notified via mail that the identified vehicle must be presented for a compliance emissions test. If a vehicle fails the compliance test, the RAQC offers vehicle owners \$715 to repair emissions related problems at participating repair facilities. If the vehicle passes the compliance test but is identified as having an evaporative leak, the RAQC offers \$715 in emissions related repairs and a free rental car while the vehicle is in the shop.

If the State or repair facility determines the vehicle is beyond repair, the vehicle becomes eligible for the RYAC Salvage Program. The RAQC offers eligible vehicle owners \$1,000 cash and \$60 in public transportation gift certificates to purchase the vehicle. Salvage vehicles are drained of fluids and the vehicle's engine is removed to ensure it is no longer operable. The majority of vehicles enter the program through the State's High-Emitter Identification Pilot Program. RAQC also receives vehicles from CDOR's hardship waiver process and State emissions technical center assistance cases.

Program partners meet frequently to monitor program progress and discuss implementation issues. Partners actively work to increase high-emitting vehicle identification and program participation. Additionally, the RAQC works closely with partnering repair facilities and CDPHE emissions technical centers to ensure appropriate repairs are made at reasonable costs.

Since the beginning of the CDPHE high-emitter pilot program, RYAC has repaired approximately 360 vehicles through the end of September 2009. Approximately 305 of those vehicles were repaired after failing the emissions compliance test and approximately 55 of those vehicles were repaired after being identified as having an evaporative leak. The salvage program, started in June 2008, has collected approximately 110 vehicles through the end of September 2009.

### **V. Accomplishments**

Current RYAC efforts were built on the success of the initial voluntary program. During voluntary stages of RYAC – implemented from 2003 to 2007 – RAQC repaired approximately 500 vehicles. These efforts helped to prove the viability of a remote-sensing based program and improve overall air quality in the Denver metro area.

### **VI. Resources**

RAQC staff has put together an informative and easily accessible web site, at [www.RepairYourAir.org](http://www.RepairYourAir.org). The web site explains participation requirements and program details.