

News

\$15 million in settlement funds to target Connecticut air pollution

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Gov. Ned Lamont announced on April 7 that Connecticut will allocate \$15 million from a national Volkswagen emissions settlement to fund clean air projects aimed at reducing pollution from diesel-powered vehicles and equipment.

Between June 2016 and January 2017, a civil case occurred between the United States, the State of California and Volkswagen regarding the “allegations of cheating emissions tests and deceiving customers,” according to the Federal Trade Commission.

The settlement stemmed from the 2015 Volkswagen emissions scandal, in which the company installed “defeat devices” in millions of diesel vehicles to bypass emissions standards during testing.

In the final settlement, Connecticut received \$55 million and has used \$30 million to date, with \$15 million now allocated under Lamont’s newest initiative.

The \$15 million will be used to finance projects that replace, repower or retrofit “an array of aging diesel mobile sources and/or non-road equipment,” according to a press release from the Governor’s office. Some of the projects listed as eligible for funding include “on-road heavy-duty vehicles such as school buses, off-road equipment such as cargo handling equipment or the repowering of marine engines.” of marine engines.”

The press release cites the



A diesel excavator runs on a construction site. The funding allocation is an effort to offset some of the air pollution caused by diesel emissions and mitigate the long-term impacts that air pollution has had on Connecticut. PHOTO BY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

transportation sector as being responsible for “approximately 70% of smog-forming air pollution and 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in Connecticut.” Additionally, according to data from the International Energy Agency, transport accounts for the highest amount of nitrogen oxide emissions.

The funding, according to the Governor’s press release, is intended to help “reduce more nitrogen oxide and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from mobile sources” and bring Connecticut closer to “meeting health-based air quality standards and long-term GHG reduction targets, while at the same time creating economic development opportunities.”

This funding allocation to clean air projects is an effort to offset some of the air pollution caused by Volkswagen’s emissions test cheating and mitigate the long-term impacts that air pollution has had on Connecticut and its residents, as stated in the press release.

According to the state Department of Public Health, Connecticut ranked fourth in terms of percentage of adults with asthma in the U.S. and has a percentage (8.2%) of children with asthma, which is higher than the national average.

“Climate change and smoggy air pollution are hurting the folks who live and work in Connecticut and cannot be ignored,” Lamont said in the press release. “Our efforts to fight this pollution are all the more important as long as government leaders in Washington seem intent to give polluters a free pass.”

U.S reinstates full Russian oil sanctions as Iran waiver expired

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U.S sanctions from a 30-day waiver which allowed for the sale and deliver of Russian oil expired on April 11 according to The Kyiv Independent . Following the Trump administration’s approval of the sanction’s expiration, oil sanctions were fully reinstated according Reuters.

The short-term waiver was introduced amid concerns over global oil supply disruptions and rising energy prices, Reuters reported. With its expiration, U.S. policy has returned to stricter enforcement measures aimed at limiting Russia’s energy revenues.

U.S. officials cited volatility in global oil markets as a key factor behind recent policy decisions, according to Yahoo News. Oil prices have increased in recent weeks fol-



Prices are displayed at a gas station in Chicago on Monday, April 6, 2026. As a result of the crisis in Iran, gas prices have been rising. PHOTO BY AP PHOTO/NAM Y. HUH

lowing escalating tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran.

Iranian strikes on several Gulf states have disrupted oil production and export routes,

significantly reducing supply from the region, Reuters reported. Analysts told Reuters that these disruptions have contributed to rising global energy prices and ongoing

market instability.

According to CNBC, the combined impact of the Hormuz disruptions by recent military confrontations and with an embargo sponsored by the U.S that targets Iranian oil shipments, reducing exports and raising fear about supply. As well with the expiration of the Russian oil waiver, has intensified energy concerns globally, particularly for countries heavily dependent on imports. India, one of the world’s largest oil consumers, has been especially affected, as it relied on both Middle Eastern oil shipments and discounted Russian crude oil during the waiver period.

Disruptions in one region, particularly a chokepoint like the Strait of Hormuz, can have widespread economic consequences. Rising oil prices have already increased fuel costs worldwide and con-

tributed to broader concerns about inflation and economic slowdown. In response to similar supply shocks in the past, the United States has temporarily adjusted sanction policies affecting major oil producers such as Iran and Venezuela to stabilize global markets, according to Yahoo News. However, the decision to allow the Russian oil waiver to expire suggests a shift toward prioritizing long-term geopolitical objectives, Yahoo News reported.

Russia remains one of the world’s largest oil exporters, and restricting its access to global markets is intended to reduce revenue tied to its international activities, according to Reuters. At the same time, analysts warned that tightening sanctions during a period of supply disruption could prolong volatility in global energy markets, Reuters reported

The Daily Campus

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