**Improve air quality by reducing sources of fine particulate (PM 2.5) pollution (diesel and wood smoke)**

* Fine particulate (PM 2.5) pollution is one of the most serious air quality problems in Oregon. The particles are so small they are easily inhaled deep into the lungs, and often act like gases transported through the blood cause severe health issues
* Scientific studies have linked fine particulate pollution to numerous health problems including[[1]](#endnote-1):
  + Premature death in people with lung and/or heart disease
  + Cardiovascular disease and heart attacks
  + Low-weight births
  + Strokes
  + Lung cancer
  + Chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD)
* People with heart and/or lung disease, children, older adults, pregnant women are most impacted by particulate pollution exposure
* In several communities across Oregon, wood smoke is the single largest source of fine particulate pollution during the wintertime[[2]](#endnote-2)
* Diesel pollution alone is responsible for $3.5 billion in public health costs to the state of Oregon, and causes up to 460 premature deaths each year[[3]](#endnote-3)
* If a community is not meeting federal standards for PM 2.5, there can be economic consequences

1. Environmental Protection Agency [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. State of Oregon. Department of Environmental Quality. The Concerns about Diesel Engine Exhaust. Operations Division. Portland. 2015 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)