



## Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel

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### INTRODUCTION

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pollution from existing diesel trucks and buses can be reduced significantly by using Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) fuel in combination with "emission particulate traps." This combination can reduce the emission of particulate combustion by-products by as much as 90 percent below the levels of typical diesel fuel. ULSD contains no more than 15 parts per million of sulfur, much lower than the 500 parts per million that can be found in typical diesel fuels. Regulations of the EPA require that ULSD be available nationwide beginning in 2006, but King County agencies began working to reduce sulfur emissions through conversion to ULSD fuels ahead of the deadline in accordance with King County's Clean Air Initiative.

### USAGE HISTORY

In 2002, five years ahead of the EPA requirement, known as the "2007 Highway Rule", King County began purchasing ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) fuel. The fuel switch, along with the addition of diesel particulate filters, reduced particulate emissions by 90 percent. ULSD has the same energy and performance characteristics as standard diesel, so its use does not affect engine performance or warranties.

In 2008, Metro Transit, Fleet Administration and Solid Waste Divisions purchased 12.25 million gallons of ULSD fuel at a cost of almost 39 million dollars. This represented a sudden and unbudgeted increase in cost of approximately \$1 per gallon, as costs surged for all petroleum products. In addition, the county purchases 100% biodiesel (B100), blended by the supplier, to create B20 (20% biodiesel, 80% ULSD).

### BID AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

#### King County

King County now uses the State of Washington's contract for ULSD and biodiesel.

This contract is intended to satisfy the on-going replenishment of state's network of gasoline, heating oil, and diesel (including biodiesel) fuel storage tanks.

Excerpts of contract (Follow this link for the [full text of contract](#))

#### State of Washington Contract

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

### VENDOR INFORMATION

King County's current supplier:

[Associated Petroleum](#) (800) 929-5243 supplies the following products:

- [ConocoPhillips](#) - ULSD product
- [World Energy](#) - Biodiesel product (B100)