

The Freight System: A Growing Threat to Our Communities

Info-sheet prepared by the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

FACTS

- The global freight system depends on ships, trucks, trains, and cargo-handling machinery to transport massive amounts of goods from manufacturing locations to various markets-communities, corporations, local businesses, and individual consumers.
- Every day, thousands of trucks travel from the ports in New Jersey, emitting multiple pollutants. Pollutants include Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Particulate Matter (PM), and Black Carbon.
- Heavy-duty diesel trucks significantly contribute to NOx emissions in urban areas, particularly in neighborhoods with high population density. These emissions are not only harmful, they can weaken the body's immune system and increase susceptibility to infections.
- Nitrogen Oxides (Nox) are a mixture of gases. Nitrogen oxides are formed during the combustion processes, partly due to nitrogen compounds in the fuel but mainly due to the direct interaction of oxygen and nitrogen in flames.
- Particulate Matter (PM) is a mixture of small particles like dust and soot from sources like vehicle exhaust. High levels can harm people's health, especially those with respiratory problems.
- Black Carbon is a sooty black substance emitted by gas and diesel engines, coal-fired power plants, and other fossil-fuel-burning sources.

IMPACTS

- Our air quality and the well-being of our communities are negatively impacted by heavy traffic and dangerous emissions.
- Despite the fact that our ports produce vital economic activity, they function at a cost to the local community and the environment.
- Many employees in the port and port-related businesses lack the right to organize, livable wages and benefits, and a safe working environment.



HEALTH IMPACTS

- Asthma
- Ear/Nose/Throat Infections
- Smaller Lungs for Life
- Obesity
- Heart Disease
- Stroke
- Heart Attacks
- Lung Problems
- Memory Problem
- Shorter Life
- Pregnancy Problems
- High Blood Pressure
- Weigh Less at Birth
- Premature Birth

OUR DEMANDS

- Reduce diesel emissions from ships, cranes, trucks, railroads, etc.
- Ensure that local residents and businesses benefit from the economic activity of the ports- employment, training, and educational opportunities
- Ensure that all workers have access to a living wage, safe and healthy working conditions, health and pension benefits, and the protection of labor laws
- Transition to zero-emissions trucks and buses
- Require all new trucks to have zero emissions
- Retire all combustion trucks

