



## News Release

# LA Times: Cleanup at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach begins to pay off

**Older polluting trucks are being barred and electric ones rolled out in the harbors' effort to cut emissions.**

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By Ronald D. White

An ambitious plan to clean up once-filthy air around the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach has shifted into high gear.

Hundreds of 1988-and-older trucks have been banned since October. Others that don't meet 2007 air pollution standards began paying a \$70 fee last week each time they haul cargo to and from the ports. This week, the first of a fleet of electric trucks will debut. And within three years, most ships will be able to plug into the ports' electrical grid and turn off their exhaust-belching diesel engines.

For more than a decade, South Bay and Long Beach residents have complained about pollution from the ports, and 1,200 annual premature deaths have been linked to the ports' air pollution problems. But in October, the ports launched the cleanup, and it's beginning to pay off.

"This is the No. 1 health issue in our city," said Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, who was pleased with the new truck fees introduced last week. "By paying these fees, the people who benefit from the goods-movement industry have become part of the solution to cleaning the air."

Link for entire story: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-portair23-2009feb23,0,5271547.story>