

EnergyRight® Solutions for Business + Industry

Airport ground support equipment



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The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) partnered with four airports in the Valley and FedEx in 2016 to replace a portion of their diesel-powered ground support equipment (GSE) with no-emission, all-electric gear. Airport GSE includes tugs for airplane pushback and hook-up, carts for moving people and materials, air conditioning tugs that provide power to the aircraft, belt and container loaders, and other equipment. Electric GSE has zero exhaust emissions and can greatly reduce NOx emissions.



In addition to the FedEx World Hub in Memphis, the Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport, Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, Tri-Cities Regional Airport and Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority are receiving TVA cash incentives based on the type and amount of equipment purchased. Ultimately, more than 55 pieces of diesel-powered gate equipment will be replaced, reducing fossil fuel consumption and emissions within the Tennessee Valley region.

“We don’t necessarily think about airport ground support equipment when considering air pollution, but this equipment is constantly in motion and continually produces

emissions,” said Cindy Herron, TVA vice president of EnergyRight Solutions programs. “With this program, we have the potential to save more than 4,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions each year in the Tennessee Valley.”

This project is one of several nontraditional ways that TVA is working to make the air cleaner in the Valley.

“We are on track to reduce the CO₂ emissions produced in our own facilities by 40 percent by 2020,” Herron added. “We are pleased to be able to help other facilities do the same.”