

## Ontario's Drive Clean Program



Ontario, Canada

June 2002

### **Client:**

Ministry of  
Environment and  
Energy, Province of  
Ontario, Canada

### **Parsons' Services:**

Program  
administration and  
management;  
information  
management  
systems; data  
management  
support; instructor,  
inspector, repair  
technician, and  
orientation training  
programs; quality  
assurance/quality  
control programs;  
and customer  
relations

### **Inspectors**

**Trained to Date:**  
11,600

### **Repair**

**Technicians**  
**Trained to Date:**  
3,430

**Facilities**  
**Accredited**  
**to Date:**  
2,100

The Province of Ontario recently adopted a comprehensive strategy to improve air quality by fighting greenhouse gases, acid rain, and smog. Since vehicle emissions make up most of the components of smog, Ontario's Drive Clean Program mandates inspections for Light-Duty Vehicles (cars) and Heavy-Duty Vehicles (trucks and buses) to identify polluting vehicles. These vehicles are then scheduled for maintenance and repair to reduce nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and carbon monoxide. Also, by improving the fuel efficiency of repaired vehicles, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is reduced.

As the prime contractor for Ontario's Light-Duty Vehicle and Heavy-Duty Vehicle emissions inspection programs, Parsons was tasked with integrating Drive Clean's data management system with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation's vehicle registration system to ensure that vehicles pass emissions tests before their registration can be renewed. Integrating the two systems took place in just one month, from December 1, 1998, when the contract was signed, to January 2, 1999, when the first vehicle emissions tests were performed.

Ontario's Drive Clean Program was launched in record time, just five weeks from contract signing to program start-up. In addition to implementing a quality assurance program, Parsons developed specialized scheduling programs to ensure that station operators had time to meet inspection test requirements and that inspectors could pass the training programs.

Parsons manages three segments of the Light-Duty and Heavy-Duty Vehicle emissions inspection programs:

- *Information Management Systems Initiatives, including development and application of system programs, software, operations guidelines, and procedures for monitoring, storage, and maintenance. Parsons also manages all data and data transfer for other Drive Clean Program contractors.*
- *Drive Clean Related Training, including Light-Duty Vehicle program emissions inspectors and repair technicians, nontechnical orientation, Heavy-Duty Vehicle emissions inspectors, and all program instructors.*
- *Drive Clean Related Light-Duty Vehicle and Heavy-Duty Vehicle program Quality Assurance/Quality Control Tasks, including station accreditation; overt auditing of inspectors and facilities; covert auditing of inspectors, repair technicians, and facilities (Light-Duty Vehicle program only); record audits; referee services; and facility followup.*

Parsons' seven-year I/S contract involves managing Drive Clean Facility registration, data analysis, reporting, and accounting procedures. The I/S team also collects emissions inspection data, ensures data integrity, and implements and supports systems for the Drive Clean Facility Help Desk, the Standard Operating Procedures Call Center, Drive Clean Facility accounts, and training system.

**PARSONS**

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Vehicle inspection



Emissions data input



Ontario audit van



Orientation training class

**Accomplishments**

*Helped implement Ontario's first mandatory emissions program on time, just five weeks from contract signing*

*Trained over 14,000 individuals to deliver the Drive Clean Program*

*Developed Web-based information access for the public and for program administrators*

*Accredited more than 800 facilities in six months*

*Helped implement a heavy-duty diesel inspection program—one of the first in North America*

Parsons developed its proprietary Vehicle Inspection Process for Emissions Reduction (VIPER) data management software for Ontario's Drive Clean Program. VIPER has processed more than 4.1 million vehicles since program startup in January 1999, proving that it can manage high volumes of data daily. To ensure that all provincial specifications for data integrity and security are met, access to the database requires several levels of verification. All data is stored in the main system, and a remote redundant backup system is designed to activate automatically and immediately in an emergency.

Recruitment and training began in October of 1998. Recruitment was handled jointly by Parsons and Ontario's Drive Clean office. Training focuses on three areas—inspectors, repair technicians, and nontechnical orientation—thereby ensuring that everyone involved with the Drive Clean Program receives uniform training. Parsons provides all training services, including convenient home study with Web-based examinations. Parsons also trains the program's instructors and sustains the quality of all training services, using Ontario's network of community colleges and technical institutions to accurately and efficiently deliver the curricula.

As the QA/QC contractor, Parsons is responsible for the integrity of the Drive Clean Program's network of 2,100 facilities and its thousands of emissions inspectors and repair technicians.

Scheduled and unscheduled audits help Parsons monitor program activities. Parsons also collaborates with the Drive Clean I/S team on daily analysis of the information collected at the Drive Clean Facilities to determine where overt and covert audits are needed.

During its first year (1999), pollutants from vehicles in the Drive Clean Program area dropped by an estimated 6.7 percent. By the end of its second year, Drive Clean reduced emissions that cause smog by an estimated 11.5 percent in the Toronto and Hamilton areas. By July 1, 2002, Drive Clean will expand to cover the southern Ontario smog zone, in which nearly 5.7 million vehicles are registered.

Parsons has earned the strong support of the many stakeholders in Ontario's Drive Clean Program. Parsons provides presentations on the program and its benefits to industry, ministries, schools, and the public, upon request.



**For the air we breathe.**

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*For further information about Ontario's Drive Clean Program, please visit the website.*

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