United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Practice Overview

May 2019

Combustion_System_Improvement (Code 372)

Replace, repower, or retrofit an agricultural combustion system and related components or devices.

Practice Information

Combustion system improvement can be used to reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM) and/or oxides of nitrogen (NOx). This standard can also be used to reduce the energy use of an agricultural combustion system by increasing the combustion system energy efficiency.

Agricultural combustion systems are stationary (e.g., engines, heaters, etc.) or mobile (e.g., tractors, etc.) power units that combust fuels. Replacement and repowered systems must be either non-combustion units or result in less emissions or energy usage.

Design criteria for this practice include proper sizing and use of the replacement or repowered combustion system, requirements for proper disposal of replaced or removed combustion systems and parts, and expected air emissions and/or energy usage from the existing and replacement, repowered, or retrofitted combustion system.

There is a requirement to identify and describe the existing combustion system and the changes to be made to that system in order to reduce air emissions or energy use. The methodologies and analyses used to estimate air emissions or energy use reductions will be documented. Records of improvements and operation needed to document reductions in air emissions or energy use are required to be kept throughout the practice lifespan.

Common Associated Practices

Combustion System Improvement (372) is commonly applied as a stand-alone practice, although certain improvements to combustion systems associated with a pumping plant are to be made with Pumping Plant (533). Additionally, other energy improvement practices, such as Building Envelope Improvement (672) or Farmstead Energy Improvement (374) may also be applied with this practice.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.