



## Early Stakeholder Outreach — Alternative Fuel Vehicle Conversion Grant Program

*Ohio EPA prepares early stakeholder outreach fact sheets to ensure stakeholders are brought into the review process as early as possible and to obtain additional input and discussion before development of interested party draft rules.*

### What do the Alternative Fuel Grant Rules cover?

New legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly in 2016 authorizes Ohio EPA to create an alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) conversion grant program. A total of \$5 million is available for grants to encourage the purchase of new large trucks (class 7 and 8) that run on compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, or liquid petroleum gas, including bi-fueled or dual-fueled trucks that can run on both an alternative fuel and on gasoline or diesel fuel. Grants can also cover the cost of converting one or more traditional fuel vehicles into alternative fuel vehicles.

### Why are these rules being sent out for Early Stakeholder Outreach?

The first step in the rule-making process is for Ohio EPA to identify that a rule needs to be amended, rescinded, or created. In response to EO 2011-01K, Ohio EPA has added an additional step to ensure stakeholders are brought into the rule process as early as possible. This additional interested party notification and request for information will allow for early feedback before the rule language has been developed by the Agency.

### What changes are being considered?

This is a new rule package to create a new program, and will reflect the program requirements in Ohio Revised Code Section 122.076:

- An application form and procedures for applying to receive a grant;
- The maximum grant amount allowed per vehicle, which shall equal the lesser of 50% of the adjusted purchase price of the new AFV or of the cost of the conversion parts and equipment, as applicable, or \$25,000.00;
- The limit on the total amount of grants allowed to a recipient, which shall be \$400,000.00; and
- A requirement that each grant recipient attest that, of the total number of miles that the recipient or any employee or agent of the recipient will drive the AFV, over half will be within Ohio.

Any grant application submitted to Ohio EPA must be submitted on a form prescribed by the director. The application form for the AFV grant program will require the following information:

- Contact information for the grant applicant's project director, fiscal agent and authorizing agent;
- A signed certification statement that the applicant will abide by the requirement to drive the new AFV more than half its miles within Ohio, and other requirements that apply to all state of Ohio grant recipients;

### How can I provide input?

The Agency is seeking stakeholder input on the alternative fuel grant rules. When preparing your comments, be sure to:

- explain your views as clearly as possible;
- describe any assumptions used;
- provide any technical information and/or data used to support your views;
- explain how you arrived at your estimate for potential burdens, benefits or costs;
- provide specific examples to illustrate your views; and
- offer alternatives.

Written comments will be accepted through close of business March 30, 2017. Please submit input to:

[derg@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:derg@epa.ohio.gov)

or

Ohio EPA, Office of Environmental Education  
50 W. Town Street, Suite 700  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, OH 43216-1049, or  
Fax #614-752-0727

### What if I have questions?

<http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx#131365076-alternative-fuel-vehicle-grants>

## Early Stakeholder Outreach — Rules

- Engine data for the new vehicles that the applicant is proposing to purchase, or the engine conversion parts and equipment, and engine data for any old engines that the applicant is proposing to convert to AFV;
- Vendor information and a price quote dated within the previous six months; and
- A project schedule for replacing or converting eligible vehicles to alternative fuel, with all purchases or conversions to be completed within one year of grant award.

Ohio EPA is proposing to create three new rules to incorporate these provisions:

3745-49-53 Definitions

3745-49-54 Permitted uses and eligibility

3745-49-55 Grant administration, including the grant application form

### Who will be regulated by these rules?

The rules will spell out the eligibility requirements for applicants, maximum grant amounts and the types of projects that can be funded under the new program, based on what was specified in the new law (Ohio Revised Code Section 122.076).

### What is the rulemaking schedule?

Ohio EPA intends to file proposed rules in the spring of 2017 in order to offer one round of grants during 2017 that will remain open until all available funds have been awarded.

### What input is the Agency seeking?

The following questions may help guide you as you develop your comments.

- This will be a one-time funding opportunity, with no administrative funds available to develop or administer an online, interactive application form. A fillable application form will be posted on the Agency web site. The starting day and time when applications may be submitted will be included in the application form. Ohio EPA is proposing to assess the eligibility of each application, and award grants to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funds are allocated, based on the date and time the application was submitted to the Agency via email. Should the Agency consider any alternative framework for application submittal?
- Ohio EPA may reserve the right to decline to fund applications that include a price quote more than 30% higher than advertised prices for comparable vehicles or equipment, or more than 30% higher than the average price quote submitted by other AFV grant applicants for comparable vehicles or equipment. Is this a reasonable amount to encourage competitive price quotes by vendors?
- Are there additional considerations the Agency should take into account when developing the rules? Is there any information or data the Agency should be aware of when developing program concepts or rule language?

The following questions may help guide you as you develop your comments.

Ohio EPA would especially like to hear information regarding the following from stakeholders who may be impacted by the new program.

- Would this regulatory program have a positive impact on your business? Please explain how.
- Would this regulatory program have an adverse impact on your business? If so, please identify the nature of the adverse impact.

### Contact

For more information, contact Carolyn Watkins at [carolyn.watkins@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:carolyn.watkins@epa.ohio.gov) or (614) 644-3768.