

**BEFORE THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**Public Notice
Final Rulemaking Governing
Alternative Fuel Vehicle Conversion Grant Program**

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Environmental Protection, under the authority of Section 122.076 of the Ohio Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119, proposes to final file the following rules of the Ohio Administrative Code:

- 3745-49-53 Definitions – alternative fuel vehicles
- 3745-49-54 Permitted uses, eligibility, and prioritization
- 3745-49-55 Grant administration

These rules address Alternative Fuel Vehicle Conversion grant program regulations. The purpose of this rule making is to allow Ohio EPA to award \$5 million in grants for the purchase of new heavy-duty trucks and buses that run on compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, or liquid petroleum gas; or for the conversion of the existing gasoline- or diesel-fueled engines in heavy duty trucks and buses to operate on these alternative fuels. Ohio EPA conducted two rounds of public comment in 2017 and held a public hearing on the rules October 26, 2017. One change was made in response to comments received at the public hearing, to allow more time for funded projects to be completed within eighteen months rather than twelve months. Draft grant application guidelines and forms were also posted for comment on the OEE web page at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oee/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx#131365076-alternative-fuel-vehicle-grants>. The rules were reviewed by the Ohio General Assembly's Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) on November 16, 2017. JCARR jurisdiction over the rules ended December 7, 2017.

The rule package will take effect on December 31, 2017. Ohio EPA is releasing a Request for Proposals (grant application guidelines and forms) inviting grant applications to be submitted beginning on March 6, 2018. An information session for grant applicants will be offered January 25, 2018.

Questions regarding this rule package should be directed to Carolyn Watkins at the Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education (OEE), at **(614) 644-3768**. To receive a copy of the final rules, please contact the **Office of Environmental Education (OEE)** receptionist at **(614) (644-2873)**. In addition, full copies of all proposed rules are available for review at any Ohio EPA district office and at the Ohio EPA central office. The final rules and grant application materials are also accessible on the OEE web page at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oee/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx#131365076-alternative-fuel-vehicle-grants>.