



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

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MEDIA CONTACT: Linda Fee Oros, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Mary McCarron, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Awards Clean Diesel School Bus Grants

Children in seven Ohio school districts will benefit from Ohio EPA grants awarded to install equipment on a total of 134 school buses, including pollution control equipment on 51 buses, and idle reduction technology on 93 buses.

A total of \$295,733 was awarded to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust. The equipment is expected to eliminate 1,705 pounds of fine particle pollution, and more than 20 tons annually in carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. These benefits will compound every year that these buses are in service.

School bus retrofit grants are supported with a combination of funds from federal Clean Diesel grants awarded to Ohio EPA from U.S. EPA, and civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio's environmental protection laws.

Grant recipients include:

- **Crooksville Exempted Village School District**, Perry County, \$45,405 to install 10 diesel oxidation catalysts and idle reduction equipment on 12 buses;
- **Eastern Local School District**, Meigs County, \$24,310 to install idle reduction equipment on 13 buses;
- **Granville Exempted Village School District**, Licking County, \$62,655 to install idle reduction equipment on 26 buses;
- **Mad River Local Schools**, Montgomery County, \$25,207 to install 16 diesel oxidation catalysts on 16 buses;
- **Middletown City Schools**, Butler County, \$38,775 to install 25 diesel oxidation catalysts on 25 buses;
- **West Holmes Local School District**, Holmes County, \$61,770 to install idle reduction equipment on 29 buses; and
- **Wooster City Schools**, Wayne County, \$37,611 to install idle reduction equipment on 13 buses.

Ohio EPA established the Clean Diesel School Bus Fund in 2006 to encourage school districts to install pollution controls on diesel school buses, and use cleaner fuel to reduce air emissions and improve air quality. More than \$7 million has been awarded to install pollution control equipment on 2,337 school buses statewide, and idle reduction equipment on 544 buses, removing nearly 145 tons of pollutants from the air. The next grant application deadline is March 1, 2012.

Priority is given to applicants in areas that do not meet federal air quality standards for fine particulates, and to districts that employ additional measures such as anti-idling programs to reduce emissions from school bus fleets.

Retrofitting school buses reduces fine particle pollution in diesel exhaust by between 20 and 90 percent, depending on the type of control equipment installed.

Fine particles, known as particulates, can lodge deeply in the lungs and aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis. Children are most susceptible to this kind of air pollution because their lungs and respiratory systems are still developing.

[Applications can be found online](#) and more information is available from the Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873.