Ohio EPA invites grant applications from owners of aging diesel cargo handling equipment, airport ground support equipment, and freight switcher locomotives. Grants between $50,000 and $2 million are available for up to 75% of the cost to replace or repower the diesel equipment with new all-electric equipment or all-electric and alternative-fueled switcher locomotives. Grant applications must be submitted online in Ohio EPA’s Customer Support Center no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 12, 2022. The “2022 Request for Applications” posted on the Ohio VW Mitigation Grants website are the grant application guidelines and include information on eligibility, application requirements, and attachments that will need to be uploaded with the application.

Ohio EPA hosted webinars for interested grant applicants on June 21, and June 22, 2022. You can access the Webinar Slides and listen to the Webinar Recording on the grant program website as well.

Answers to questions received regarding the 2022 Request for Applications via webinars, email and telephone inquiries, are compiled below. Ohio EPA will continue to update this document throughout the application period, adding new answers at the end of the list.

**Question 1: Why are there only 26 priority counties? If you are not in one of those counties, you will not be awarded?**

**Response 1:** The Volkswagen settlement applied very specific restrictions on how the states could spend the trust funds, including four criteria on where the funds could be spent. The four criteria include air quality, specifically counties not meeting federal Clean Air Act standards for ozone smog and fine particulate pollution; as well as the location of populations that have historically been disproportionately affected by the pollutants in diesel exhaust; and where the VW vehicles equipped with the illegal devices to turn off emission controls were registered. Ohio EPA used these criteria to develop the list of first and second priority counties for funding that are now listed in Ohio’s Beneficiary Mitigation Plan that was submitted to the Trustee of the court approved settlement. For this grant cycle, Ohio EPA is treating applications from first priority counties and second priority counties equally.
Comment 2: When will applicants be notified of award status?

Response 2: We will announce the awards in November, possibly earlier, depending on number of applications submitted.

Question 3: Can less than $50,000 be requested for funding?

Response 3: The application software will limit grant requests to between $50,000 and $2 million. Smaller projects are encouraged to submit jointly or contact Ohio EPA staff with project specifics.

Question 4: Where do I find the list of previous grants to understand what has been requested in the past?

Response 4: To find last year's summary of Grant Recipients, please navigate to the Ohio EPA VW Mitigation Grants website, and under the subsection ‘DMTF 2021 Request for Applications to Replace Diesel Off Road’ there is a file titled List of 2021 Grant Recipients.

Question 5: A port is tentatively planning to apply on behalf of a terminal operator. Would reimbursement percentages/guidelines be held to the “non-government” category?

Response 5: If the owner of the equipment is a private company, the non-government rates would apply. If the owner of the equipment is a public port authority under Ohio law, the government rate would be applicable.

Question 6: I was not able to find anything titled “Grant Application Guidelines” on the website. Can you please direct me to that link?

Response 6: On the Ohio EPA VW Mitigation Grants website, under the subsection ‘DMTF 2022 Request for Applications to Replace Diesel Off-Road Equipment,’ the application guidelines are labeled 2022 Request for Applications.

Question 7: Are electric mowers eligible?

Response 7: Electric mowers are not eligible for these funds.

Question 8: Is this grant money available for replacing diesel Class 8 tractors with Class 8 BEV units?

Response 8: Grant funds may be used to replace diesel terminal tractors operating outdoors off-highway in specific ports, terminals or distribution centers located within Ohio’s 26 DMTF priority counties. These may be replaced with all-electric terminal tractors. (A terminal tractor licensed to travel on public roads between adjacent terminal facilities in the same location may be eligible. Contact Ohio EPA with specifics.)

This grant cycle is not open to replacement of traditional class 8 semi tractors operating on highways. Ohio EPA has already awarded all the funds allocated to truck replacements in our VW Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. Owners of heavy trucks may want to watch US EPA’s website for federal grant funding under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act’s national competitive grant cycle, which is expected to open in August, 2022.
The US Department of Energy’s Alternative Fuels Data Center website also tracks state and national funding opportunities, look under “laws and incentives.” The Atlas EV Hub site is also a good source of information on electric vehicles.

**Questions 9: Does the 75% reimbursement for all-electric off-road equipment replacements *include* the charger unit?**

**Response 9:** Only the off-road equipment is eligible for grant funding, and not the charger unit. Ohio EPA prefers to focus available funds on equipment that contributes directly to emission reductions, and not for fleet-specific or site-specific charging infrastructure.

End of Response to Comments