



September 2010

FREE FUNDING AVAILABLE TO CLEAN UP DIESEL SCHOOL BUSES

On behalf of the Illinois Campaign to Clean up Diesel Pollution, we are writing to encourage your district to apply for funding available through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Clean Diesel Grant Program to clean up your diesel school bus fleet with advanced pollution controls. Funding is **currently available** for school districts that are located in the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, and portions of Kendall and Grundy that own their own bus fleets.

Diesel exhaust from school buses can pose a significant health threat to school children, drivers and school staff. The exhaust from diesel buses contains over 40 toxic air contaminants, carcinogens, ozone smog-forming compounds, and fine particulate matter ("soot"). Exposure to fine particles is known to cause asthma attacks, heart attacks, lung cancer, strokes, and even premature deaths. At times, dirty soot inside a school bus can reach levels ten times higher than the outside air, increasing children's and staff's exposure to harmful pollutants.

Today all new school buses (model year 2007 or newer) are federally required to use pollution controls, such as diesel particulate filters, to eliminate over 90 percent of diesel soot. Because older buses do not have these safeguards, we strongly encourage you to apply for Illinois EPA Clean Diesel Grant Program to equip your pre-2007 diesel school bus fleet with such filters.

The Illinois EPA Clean Diesel Grant Program provides funding to local governments, school districts, mass transit agencies, among others, with cleaner technology and advanced pollution controls. To date, 77 Illinois school districts have received grants totaling \$3.7 million to install diesel emissions and idling reduction equipment¹. For more information about the Illinois EPA Clean Diesel Grant Program, please go to: www.illinoisgreenfleets.org.

If you have additional questions about this funding source or the Illinois Campaign to Clean Up Diesel Pollution, please feel to contact us.

Sincerely,

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¹ For this funding source, there is no match requirement for school districts to receive pollution controls. Diesel buses must be in service for at least 5 more years after the completion of the project. For more information on requirements and funding, see: <http://www.illinoisgreenfleets.org/> and <http://www.illinoisgreenfleets.org/clean-diesel-grant/current-funding.pdf>