

## Ohio.gov | Recovery

State of Ohio American Recovery and Reinvestment Act **Focus Stories**

### Recovery Act in Action: October 2010

Stimulus successes from across the state: [Money Under the Bus! \(#bus\)](#)

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#### Money Under the Bus!

With autumn nearly half over, the Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Program is nearing completion. Last year, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency was awarded more than \$1.7 million in Recovery Act funding for the program and quickly began the process of distributing the funds to local school districts around the state.

The Clean Diesel grants are used by school districts to retrofit school buses in order to reduce student and driver exposure to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust.

While the oldest buses in many fleets are being retired, and pollution control devices come standard on most new school buses, many "middle-aged" buses remain without pollution controls and are likely to be on the road for years to come.

The Clean Diesel School Bus Program makes it possible for schools with these buses to outfit them with pollution-reducing equipment, allowing them to operate their fleets more cleanly and efficiently.



A Mentor Exempted Village School District bus enters the service garage. The district retrofitted 44 school buses with pollution-reducing equipment. 463 school buses in 23 communities are being retrofitted with Recovery Act funds statewide.

"This program both improves air quality and creates work in the manufacturing sector, which is good for jobs," explained Carolyn Watkins of the Ohio EPA. "But the biggest benefit goes to the students.

If they aren't reaching for an inhaler as often, or smelling diesel exhaust through the floorboards or at the bus stop, that's something we can be proud of." As of October 1st, 17 of the 22 stimulus-funded school bus retrofit projects in Ohio have been completed, and two more are well underway.

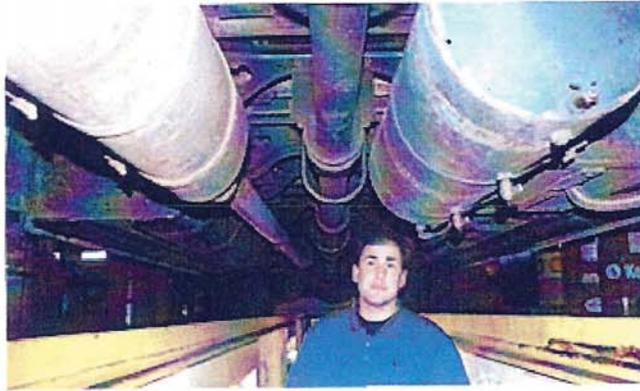
Three additional projects are waiting for back-ordered equipment from the factory, illustrating the effect of the program on demand for pollution control equipment. One example of the program's success is Mentor Exempted Village Schools in Mentor, Lake County, Ohio, which received more than \$94,000 in funding.

The school district was among the first of many grant recipients to complete its project on time and on budget, and retrofitted 44 school buses with special equipment that breaks down pollutants in the buses' exhaust streams into less harmful components.

"The quality of the installations was excellent," said Mike Zombory, fleet maintenance supervisor for Mentor Exempted Village Schools. "I have noticed that there is a big reduction in crankcase fumes."

Statewide, a total of 463 school buses in 23 communities are being retrofitted with Recovery Act funds. Ohio EPA estimates that the project will achieve an annual reduction of more than 1,200 pounds of pollutants, including 75 pounds of soot particles, 855 pounds of carbon monoxide, and 340 pounds of other hydrocarbons, amounting to an overall reduction of more than 30 percent for every year that the retrofitted buses remain in service.

As a result of these Recovery Act grants, students and drivers can expect to breathe cleaner air for years to come.



Mentor Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Mike Zombory inspects a diesel oxidation catalyst on one of the district's 44 retrofitted school buses. The devices use a chemical process to break down pollutants in diesel exhaust into less harmful components.