



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER**

P.O. Box 1049, 50 W. Town St., Suite 700

Columbus, OH 43216-1049

Tele: (614) 644-2160 Fax: (614) 644-2737

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Release:** April 9, 2009  
**Media Contact:** Melissa Fazekas, (614) 644-2782

### Governor and Ohio EPA Director Applaud Recovery Act Investment of \$1.73 Million for School Bus Retrofits in Ohio

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski today applauded the Obama Administration's announcement that the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* includes \$1.73 million for school bus retrofits in Ohio. These dollars will be awarded by Ohio EPA to local school districts to help them purchase and install pollution control equipment onto school buses, reducing students' exposure to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust.

"We are grateful to the Obama Administration and U.S. EPA for its investment in reducing Ohio students' exposure to diesel exhaust," said Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski. "Ohio EPA plans to award these funds to school districts this calendar year."

Ohio EPA intends to award the funds to public school districts who apply to the Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund during 2009. The \$1.73 million will be added to \$900,000 already available this year in funds from other sources. This includes \$600,000 in state funds from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio's pollution control laws, and nearly \$300,000 in a federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act grant already received from U.S. EPA.

The next deadline for school districts to apply for these funds is September 1, 2009. School buses of model years 1994-2007 that travel at least 5,000 miles per year are eligible for retrofits funded by this program. The grant application may be viewed by visiting <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html>. School districts who wish to apply for these funds also should enter a pre-application for their project proposal on the [www.recovery.ohio.gov](http://www.recovery.ohio.gov) Web page. School districts should choose the Energy and Environment option under the Federal Stimulus Program and the Emissions Reduction/School Bus Retrofits sub program.

Ohio EPA is planning a series of information sessions around the state in June to assist interested applicants and vendors. Sessions are scheduled on June 9 from 9-11 a.m. at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in Columbus, and on June 11 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency in Dayton. Additional sessions are being scheduled for other parts of the state. Directions and registration information for all sessions will be posted at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html> as soon as arrangements have been completed. Interested applicants and vendors may contact [carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us) for more information on these school bus retrofit grants.

There are three other opportunities for Ohio entities to apply to U.S. EPA for federal stimulus dollars for clean diesel projects. Application deadlines for those projects are April 28, 2009, and May 5, 2009. These opportunities are described at <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/eparecovery/index.htm>.

Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority are working with interested parties to apply for the national clean diesel program, combining some of the project proposals that have been submitted to the [www.recovery.ohio.gov](http://www.recovery.ohio.gov) Web page. The criteria used to select projects for inclusion in the state's application reflect the criteria in the Request for Applications published by the National

Clean Diesel Assistance Program, at <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/eparecovery/documents/recovery-act-national-clean-diesel-rfa.pdf>. Applicants also may submit proposals directly to U.S. EPA following the guidance offered. Applicants seeking technical assistance from Ohio EPA on diesel emission reduction projects other than school bus retrofits may contact Carolina Prado at [carolina.prado@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:carolina.prado@epa.state.oh.us).

-30-

---

Go back to [News Release home page](#)

Go back to [Public Interest Center home page](#)

Go back to [Ohio EPA home page](#)