



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER
P.O. Box 1049, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43216-1049
Tele: (614) 644-2160 Fax: (614) 644-2737

NEWS RELEASE

For Release: June 4, 2009

Contact: Melissa Fazekas, (614) 644-2782

Ohio EPA Seeks School Districts to Use Federal Stimulus Money For Reducing Bus Emissions

Ohio EPA has scheduled five information sessions for school districts interested in receiving *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) funding to improve air quality for students around school buses. Applications for additional ARRA funds are sought by September 1, 2009, or March 1, 2010.

The meetings have been scheduled around the state from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in June:

Central Ohio: Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission office, 111 Liberty St., Suite 100, Columbus.

Southwest Ohio: Thursday, June 11, 2009, at Regional Air Pollution Control Agency, 117 South Main Street, Dayton.

Southeast Ohio: Monday, June 15, 2009, at Washington County Career Center, 21740 State Route 676, Marietta.

Southern Ohio: Monday, June 17, 2009, at Portsmouth City Health Department, first floor conference room, 605 Washington Street, Portsmouth.

Northern Ohio: Monday, June 22, 2009, at Broadview Heights City Hall, Council Chambers, 9543 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights.

These will be informal, question and answer sessions to assist school districts in understanding the funding sources available and help them find the best program to suit their needs. Administrators and fleet managers are encouraged to attend.

School buses from model years 1994 through 2007 that travel at least 5,000 miles per year are eligible for retrofits funded under this program. The grant application may be viewed by visiting <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html>. School districts that wish to apply for these funds also should enter a pre-application for their project proposal on the 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.

A total of \$1.73 million in ARRA funds 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.

To learn more about the grant program, visit the links above, or contact Carolyn Watkins via e-mail at carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us, or call (614) 644-3768. For questions about diesel bus retrofitting, particle standards or program rules, contact John Paulian at john.paulian@epa.state.oh.us, or call (614) 644-4832.