



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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News Release

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Ohio EPA Awards More than \$1.2 Million to 15 Schools
Air Quality Near Schools Expected to Improve

Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski today announced that \$1,271,670 will be distributed to 15 school districts in 11 counties to retrofit older school buses with up-to-date air pollution control equipment. These grants will retrofit pollution control technology on 337 school buses, annually reducing an estimated 780.2 pounds of particulates, 7,423.5 pounds of carbon monoxide, and 2,802.8 pounds of hydrocarbons.

“By combining federal stimulus dollars and a U.S. EPA grant with our own funds, we are delivering a substantial amount of money to help school children breathe cleaner air,” said Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski.

Schools receiving funding include:

- **Bloom-Carroll Local Schools**, Fairfield County, \$17,059.00 to retrofit 14 buses
- **Norton City Schools**, Summit County, \$33,075.00 to retrofit 15 buses
- **Licking Valley Local Schools**, Licking County, \$28,002.45 to retrofit 21 buses
- **Berea City Schools**, Cuyahoga County, \$48,089.00 to retrofit 16 buses
- **Columbus City Schools**, Franklin County, \$98,752.99 to retrofit 53 buses
- **Bellevue City Schools**, Huron County, \$104,612.00 to retrofit 19 buses
- **Marysville Exempted Village Schools**, Union County, \$26,365.66 to retrofit 24 buses
- **Marlington Local Schools**, Stark County, \$96,450.00 to retrofit 32 buses
- **Mentor Exempted Village Schools**, Lake County, \$138,876.00 to retrofit 44 buses
- **Westlake City Schools**, Cuyahoga County, \$134,500.00 to retrofit 20 buses
- **Kirtland Local Schools**, Lake County, \$95,230.00 to retrofit 20 buses
- **Keystone Local Schools**, Lorain County, \$35,574.96 to retrofit 12 buses
- **South Euclid–Lyndhurst City Schools**, Cuyahoga County, \$40,898.00 to retrofit 8 buses
- **Cleveland Metropolitan Schools**, Cuyahoga County, \$114,855.00 to retrofit 19 buses
- **Delaware City Schools**, Delaware County, \$259,330.00 to retrofit 20 buses

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The grants also are funding the installation of pre-heaters on 54 school buses, to help reduce idling times. U.S. EPA has determined that diesel exhaust is a likely human carcinogen that can contribute to other acute and chronic health effects such as asthma. Children are more susceptible to air pollution than healthy adults because their respiratory systems are still developing and they have a faster breathing rate.

These grants are funded through a combination of \$412,467 in civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio's air pollution control laws; \$104,789 from a federal grant from U.S. EPA under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act; and \$754,413 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds awarded by U.S. EPA to the state for diesel emission reduction projects. Preference is given to school districts applying from counties that do not currently meet air quality standards for particulates (PM 2.5). A map of those counties is available at www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/SIP/Nonattain/pm2_5.pdf

Since Ohio EPA's Clean Diesel School Bus Fund was created in 2006, Ohio EPA has awarded nearly \$3.3 million to install pollution control equipment on 1,105 school buses statewide, and removed 16.5 tons of pollutants from the air. In November 2008, the program received a Leadership Award from U.S. EPA's Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative.

The next grant application deadline is September 1, 2009. More information about the program can be found at www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/stimulus.html.