[Clean Truck, Bus & Airport Equipment Request for Applications](https://deq.mt.gov/files/Energy/Transportation/2021-22%20Clean%20Truck%20Bus%20AGSE%20RFA%20FINAL.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) Frequently Asked Questions

Beginning October 6, 2025, DEQ is accepting applications from public and private entities for matching funding to replace older diesel class 4-8 trucks or buses (GVWR greater than 14,001 pounds) with battery electric, alternate fuel, or diesel vehicles. This funding also applies to airport ground support vehicles and equipment that service aircraft between flights.

Applications for the Draft Application Phase will be accepted up until December 5, 2025. See the Request for Applications for instructions, timelines, application forms, and a draft model contract.

If you are interested in learning more about the Clean Truck, Bus & Airport Equipment RFA, please contact Neal Ullman at neal.ullman@mt.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

***What if the engine tag is missing or not readable?***

Use other sources to provide the information that was on the engine tag including the serial number and emissions family number. Note in your proposal that the engine tag is missing and you are submitting alternate information.

***My school district contracts for bus services, can we still apply?***

Yes. Like DEQ’s Clean School Bus Program, school districts that contract for school bus services may apply for Clean Truck, Bus & Airport Equipment Program funding. Districts should work with the contractor to coordinate the specific bus to be replaced and commit that the replacement bus will be used for that district. The school district (not the transportation contractor) must submit the application(s) for funding.

***Can private schools, such as religious schools, apply for school bus funding?***

Yes. Such entities would be eligible for the non-government-owned maximum funding share.

***My school district applied for funds from EPA’s Clean School Bus Program, can we also apply for funding from the Clean Truck, Bus & Airport Equipment Program to pay for the remaining cost of a new bus?***

Yes, EPA Clean School Bus Program funds may be used to match funds from DEQ’s Clean Truck, Bus & AGSE RFA. However, based on EPA’s estimated timeline for awards, if a district is not awarded EPA funds, DEQ cannot adjust the funding amount requested from DEQ after the application deadline.

***What sources of funding can be used as match?***

Other sources of funding, including federal funding, may supplement funding from this RFA, as those funding sources allow. For example, DEQ has previously awarded Volkswagen funds to replace transit buses and the cost share was provided by the Federal Transit Administration.

***I’d like to replace a gasoline powered vehicle. Is that eligible for funding through this RFA?***

No, only diesel-powered vehicles are eligible for replacement through this RFA with the exception of certain airport ground support equipment. See Section 2.B on pages 3-4 of the RFA for further information on project eligibility.

***Can these funds be used to purchase a passenger car?***

No, the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Settlement limits eligible projects to class 4-8 vehicles that weigh 14,001 pounds or more.

***What’s the oldest and newest model year vehicle I can replace?***

Projects under Category A or B (class 4-8 trucks or transit and shuttle buses) can replace model years 1992-2009 per the requirements of the Volkswagen Settlement Agreement.

Projects under Category C (class 4-8 school buses) can replace model year 2009 or older.

There are no model year restrictions for Category D, airport ground support equipment.

Regardless of the category, all replacement vehicles or airport equipment must be fully operational and in regular use.

***My organization has already purchased or ordered the vehicle or equipment; can we still apply for funding?***

No, any expenses, purchases, or orders made before the contract associated with this RFA is fully executed are not eligible projects.

***Can these funds pay for fueling infrastructure?***

Electric charging infrastructure associated with the purchase of an electric vehicle or airport equipment is eligible for funding. However, charging equipment not associated with the purchase of an electric vehicle or airport equipment (e.g. primarily available to the general public) is not eligible for funding.

Fueling infrastructure for non-zero-emission vehicles or airport equipment (i.e., refueling stations for diesel, CNG, LNG, or LPG) are not eligible for funding.

***Is funding available for replacing 2011 or 1991 yellow school buses?***

The Volkswagen Settlement requirements only allow for replacement of model year 2009 and older school buses. A 2011 model year school bus would not be eligible for funding but a 1991 would if it also meets other eligibility requirements.

***Does the 2009 diesel engine cutoff year ever increase for a diesel-to-diesel project?***

No. The Volkswagen Settlement requirements only allow for certain model years to be eligible for funding and those requirements will not change. See Section 2.B of the RFA for vehicle/equipment model years that are eligible for replacement. Eligible model years vary by project Category.

***Will a class 8 diesel terminal tractor/yard dog be an acceptable project to be funded under this program?***

Class 4-8 on-road trucks (14,001 lbs GVWR or greater), which could include a class 8 terminal tractor/yard dog, are eligible for funding under Category A of this funding opportunity. See the full eligibility requirements listed in Section 2.B on pages 3-4 of the RFA to ensure project compliance.

***Is funding available to repower an existing vehicle?***

No. This funding opportunity is only for vehicle replacements.

***Does DEQ require that the vehicle being replaced be decommissioned?***

Yes. Should your project be awarded funding, DEQ will provide a decommissioning documentation form that must be completed by awardees to document that the older vehicle or equipment is properly decommissioned. Acceptable methods of decommission include, but are not limited to, cutting the vehicle chassis in half, drilling a three inch or larger hole in the engine block, and using a claw to rip the vehicle apart.

***Can an entity have more than one project and, if so, must we apply independently for each project?***

If an entity has more than one vehicle or equipment it would like to replace, that entity would need to submit separate proposals for each vehicle or equipment. An award for one replacement proposal does not ensure an award for another proposal.

***Are shipping costs eligible for new electric equipment?***

Yes. Delivery of vehicles or equipment as well as electric charging stations are eligible costs.

***Is snow removal equipment eligible for funding?***

Class 4-8 on-road trucks (14,001 lbs GVWR or greater), which could include a truck adapted for snow removal, are eligible for funding under Category A of this funding opportunity. See the full eligibility requirements listed in Section 2.B on pages 3-4 of the RFA to ensure compliance.

***Is the $500,000 maximum grant amount for the purchase of the vehicle and purchase/installation of infrastructure combine or is there $500,000 available for each component?***

A proposal to acquire an electric vehicle or equipment could include the associated charging infrastructure as part of the proposal and awarded funding. The $500,000 grant cap (or applicable maximum DEQ funding share maximum) would apply to the combined cost of the vehicle and charging infrastructure. Separate grants are not available through this funding opportunity for both the vehicle replacement and associated charging infrastructure.

***Would a charging station require a separate application if an applicant is applying for a piece of electric equipment?***

No.

***There aren’t many companies that make the vehicle/equipment I’d want to purchase; can I submit fewer than three bids with my application?***

As noted in “Section 4. Proposal Materials & Instructions” of the RFA, if you are not able to provide three bids, please include a written explanation of the reason why. For example, if there are fewer than three manufacturers/suppliers of the equipment, please provide a written explanation noting the limited number of suppliers. An application will not be considered if it does not include three bids or a written explanation of the reason why three bids are not included in the application.

***Can these funds be used to match funds from other funding sources such as federal programs?***

Yes. Federal funding opportunities such as EPA’s Clean School Bus Program or FTA’s Low or No Emission Grant Program can be matched using Volkswagen funds but check match requirements from the other funding source to for specific match requirements.

***Do Build America/Buy America (BABA) requirements apply to this RFA?***

No, but if funds from this RFA are being used to match federal funds, check to see what BABA requirements apply to the federal funding.