

Webinar 2: An Overview of New Jersey's Electric School Bus Grant Program

February 6th, 12 noon ET



Webinar Series Reminder



Webinar 1:

Why Electric school buses?

View the recording [here](#)



Webinar 2:

An overview of New Jersey's Electric School Bus Program



Webinar 3:

Interested in applying for the Bi-directional Charging Pilot?

Register [here](#)



Program Overview

Introduction

Provides up to \$15,000,000 per year for three years (per P.L. 2022, c.86) to **replace diesel** school buses **with battery-electric** school buses

Applications Due: May 17th, 2024, 5:00 p.m. ET

Eligible applicants:

- Schools and school districts that own their buses
 - Includes public, private, charter, and other K-12 schools
- School bus contractors that provide busing services to schools and school districts
 - School bus contractors must apply in conjunction with a specified school or school district.

Eligible Buses

Type A and B buses are eligible for other funding opportunities.



- ☐ All electric
- ☐ Type C or D
- ☐ New (No repowers or used buses)
- ☐ Purchase or leased (A minimum five-year lease is required)
- ☐ Operate in New Jersey for at least five years and at least 75% of vehicle miles traveled
- ☐ Range must be the greater of:
 - 90 miles of all-electric range on a full charge, or
 - 30% more range on a full charge than the expected daily maximum miles
- ☐ Be accompanied by appropriate training from the dealer or manufacturer for bus maintenance personnel, bus drivers, and other relevant personnel

Funding Amounts

Version	Standard Grant Amount	Overburdened School District Grant Amount
Bus + Level 2 Charging Station	\$270,000	\$300,000
Bus + DC Fast Charging (DCFC) Station	\$290,000	\$320,000
Bi-directional charging pilot per bus <u>maximum</u> (includes bus, charging components and bonus incentives)	\$320,000	\$350,000

Number of buses per applicant: 2-24*

Overburdened school districts include those located in municipalities categorized as overburdened communities.

Up to \$40,000 in federal tax credits are available for applicants acquiring qualified [clean vehicles](#). Tax credits **can be combined** with funding amounts shown here.

A list of overburdened communities can be found at: <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/communities/>

Federal Tax Credits

- Businesses and tax-exempt organizations that buy a qualified clean vehicle may qualify for a tax credit equal to the lesser of:
 - 30% of the sales price
 - The incremental cost of the vehicle
- The maximum credit is \$40,000 Type C and D school buses
- Tax-exempt organizations will be required to file a form with the IRS and elect a direct payment option, the form is still being finalized
- There is no limit on the number of credits your school or organization can claim
- Details can be found at: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/commercial-clean-vehicle-credit>

Bus Decommissioning

- Decommissioning an existing bus is **not** required
- Applicants choosing to decommission buses will be awarded higher points in the scoring process
 - Full points: decommission a 2010 or older diesel-powered school bus
 - Half points: decommission a 2011 or newer diesel-powered school bus
- The bus must be decommissioned within 6 months of receiving the new bus and visual proof must be provided to NJDEP upon request

Eligible Charging Infrastructure

- ☐ Applying for charging infrastructure funding is **not** required
 - Applicants must indicate a charging plan to ensure vehicle usability
- ☐ Level 2 charging stations must be Energy Star certified
 - DCFC are not required to be Energy Star certified
- ☐ Not be purchased or otherwise subsidized with other State or federal funds
 - Total funding cannot exceed the total cost of the infrastructure
- ☐ Must remain operational in New Jersey for at least five years



Other Requirements

Data Collection

- DEP requires telematics to assess Program impacts, driving and charging behavior, and operational issues
- Devices must remain on the vehicle and operational for up to three years

Reporting

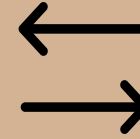
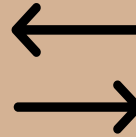
- Twice per year, grantees shall report the cost to operate electric school buses, maintenance records, and any reliability issues

Other Funding Sources

- Applicants are encouraged to utilize federal tax credits and utility electric vehicle make-ready infrastructure incentives
- Applicants are **not** permitted to use other federal or state funding sources including EPA's Clean School Bus Program and State programs for charging equipment
 - Applicants are encouraged to apply to both the EPA Clean School Bus Program and this grant Program, however, both programs cannot be used to fund the same bus
 - If the applicant is awarded funding under the Clean School Bus Program, this Program must be used to acquire additional buses or the applicant must withdraw from one program

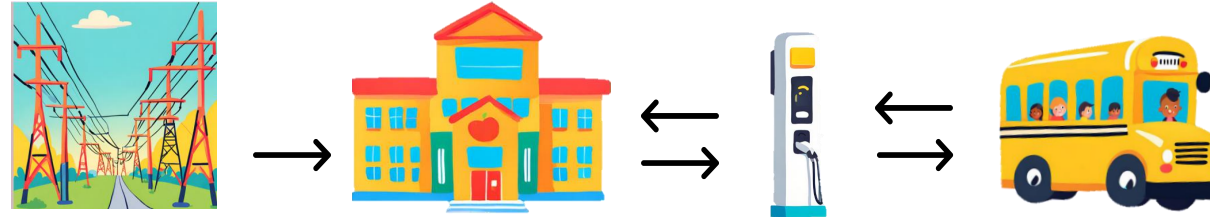
Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Criteria Description	Maximum Points
Project readiness	Applicants must submit a route plan that demonstrates feasible routes and activity uses for electric buses. This should include the address of the charging stations, details of when and how the buses will be charged to ensure they are able to meet their operational requirements, the distance of the routes to be served, charging station power level requirements, and should factor in energy demand required to serve these routes.	30
Utility engagement	Applicants are required to submit proof that a load change form was submitted to their utility including a notice of intent to acquire electric school buses. If the applicant can provide proof that utility upgrades are not required for the proposed charging stations to be installed, this can be submitted in place of the load change form.	10
Vehicle decommissioning	Applicants must indicate whether they intend to decommission an existing bus from their fleet if they are selected to receive this grant. Applications will be awarded full points for decommissioning a 2010 or older diesel bus and will be awarded half points for decommissioning a 2011 or newer diesel bus.	20
Overburdened school district	Applicants will be awarded the full 20 points if they meet the criteria outlined in <i>Section 3a</i> and 0 points if not.	20
Timeline	The application must contain an estimated timeline of the project dates. This should include the following: estimated dates for ordering the buses, receiving the buses, beginning charging station acquisitions, upgrading electric grid infrastructure at the site, installing charging stations, and decommissioning existing buses (optional).	10
Budget	Applications will be evaluated based on the proposed approach to procuring buses and controls in place to ensure that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. Applicants must demonstrate that sufficient funding is secured to cover the grantee's portion of project costs.	10



Bi-directional Charging Pilot

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Bi-directional charging: The ability for charging infrastructure to allow power to flow from both ends of the electricity line. Includes V2B, VGI, and V2G.

Bi-directional Charging Scoring

Criteria	Criteria Description	Maximum Points
Bi-directional partner engagement	Applicants are required to submit documents demonstrating their engagement with manufacturers, charging station vendors, and software providers.	5
Utility load form and maximum building capacity	A copy of the utility load change form should be submitted (as outlined in the Utility Coordination section of the Bi-directional Charging Pilot). This form should also include the maximum building capacity that the bi-directional load would offset, which should be included in the project readiness plan.	15
Bi-directional project readiness	A comprehensive bi-directional charging pilot project readiness plan and timeline is required. The technical narrative must include existing building power, number of buses and charging stations to be connected as part of this pilot, approximate power generation, and proof of compatibility with bi-directional charging technology. This should include a timeline for the delivery date of vehicles and charging equipment.	15
Bi-directional budget	Applicants will be awarded the full 10 points if they demonstrate the incremental costs of the bi-directional charging equipment and manufacturer quotes. Applicants must submit direct vendor quotes and a consolidated excel budget with the quotes included.	10

Application Overview



How Do I Submit an Application?

Application Portal:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESBApplication24>



**ELECTRIC
SCHOOL BUS
GRANT PROGRAM**

Scan the QR Code below to begin your application!



The graphic features a blue background with a yellow border. At the top left is a yellow lightning bolt icon. To its right is the text 'ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS GRANT PROGRAM' in white and yellow. Further right is an illustration of a yellow school bus with a charging cable plugged into its side. Below this is the text 'Scan the QR Code below to begin your application!' in yellow. In the center is a large QR code with a yellow and black pixelated pattern, enclosed in a blue 3D frame. At the bottom right is a photograph of a real yellow electric school bus, labeled 'SCHOOL BUS' and 'NT210', parked in front of a building.



Overview & Acknowledgements Pages

- Overview – Due Date (5:00 pm on Friday May 17, 2024), Eligibility, Funding Amounts
- Fine Print, Please! - #/Type of Buses, Eligible/Ineligible Expenses
- Acknowledgement Page
 - Incomplete Application Warning
 - 7 checkboxes with information required to be available in order to complete the application
 - 4 checkboxes indicating you understand the parameters and requirements of the program



Applicant & Bus Information

- Section A – Applicant Information – Address, Phone, e-mail, school district, region, towns operated in, overburdened community status
- Section B – New Electric School Bus Information – How many buses and how many DC Fast Chargers (do not include bi-directional here)
- Section C – Information for Calculating Emissions Benefits – # decommissioning and for each – weight class (6, 7, 8), Engine MY, VMT/year, gallons of fuel/year, idling hours/year

Additional Project Information – Section D

- Participation in EPA's Clean School Bus Program, Yes/No
- Four (4) File Uploads Required; One (1) Optional; File Formats Accepted: PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF
 - ☐ Project Readiness.
 - ☐ Utility Engagement.
 - ☐ Community Engagement. Optional.
 - ☐ Timeline.
 - ☐ Budget.
- File uploads should all begin with your district name. (i.e. LaceyTownship_ProjectReadiness, LaceyTownship_UtilityEngagement)

Bi-directional Charging Pilot – Section E

- Optional. How many electric school buses for bi-directional charging (2 – 8) and how many decommissioning.
- Four (4) File Uploads Required; File Formats Accepted: PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF
 - ☐ Bi-directional Partner engagement.
 - ☐ Bi-directional Utility Load Form and Maximum Building Capacity.
 - ☐ Bi-directional Pilot Readiness.
 - ☐ Bi-directional Budget.
- File uploads should all begin with your district name and include BD for Bi-directional. (i.e. LaceyTownship_PartnerEngage_BD, LaceyTownship_UtilityLoadForm_BD)

If Bi-directional Pilot App Not Awarded

- Not all bi-directional charging pilot applications will be awarded. Therefore, the final questions of the application allow you to modify the total number of buses and charging stations you would like to apply for.
- Section E – Final Questions
 - If your Bi-directional Charging Pilot application is NOT awarded, please indicate how many electric school buses you would like to include in this application. (choice of 2 – 16)
 - If your Bi-directional Charging Pilot application is NOT awarded, how many Direct Current Fast Chargers (DCFC) charging stations (not ports) are you applying for? (choice of 0 – 16)



What Happens Next?

- Your application is not submitted until you click “DONE” at the end.
- Once submitted, a “Thank You” screen will appear.
- All applicants will be notified of their application status by the end of June 2024.



Application and Additional Resources

For full program details and to apply:

<https://dep.nj.gov/stophesoot/electric-school-bus-program/>

Still have questions? Contact us (include “Electric School Bus Grant Program” in the subject line):
stophesoot@dep.nj.gov

Additional Resources:

- WRI Electric School Bus Initiative: <https://electricschoolbusinitiative.org/>
- WRI Technical Assistance Program: <https://electricschoolbusinitiative.org/electric-school-bus-initiative-technical-assistance-menu>
- New Jersey Electric School Bus Buyers’ Guide (NJ Sierra Club and Clean Cities Coalition):
https://njcleancities.org/images/downloads/eBook/nj_esb_buyers_guide.pdf
- Joint Office quick start guide: <https://driveelectric.gov/files/school-bus-fleet.pdf>
- Some additional resources on NJDEP webpage: <https://dep.nj.gov/stophesoot/electric-school-bus-program/>