IN Propane School Bus Grant, 2015 | Program Guidelines

Funding Goal: The Office of Energy Development (OED) intends to increase public school corporations' access to and knowledge of new propane school buses. Schools can benefit from propane school buses in a variety of ways, including decreasing school children's exposure to harmful emissions, lowering maintenance costs through the use of a cleaner burning fuel, and increasing fuel diversity. By diversifying fueling sources, schools are able to reduce their exposure to fueling price shocks and improve their access to affordable, reliable energy. To learn how fleets across the US have benefited from using propane, follow this link to the US Department of Energy's Alternative Fuel Data Center and check "propane" on the lower left.

Propane school buses can complement best practices that include the following:

- A "no idling" policy
- Lock in long-term fueling prices
- Diversify fueling resources through the adoption of alternative fuels

Eligible Applicants: Indiana Public School Corporations that own and operate the school buses and that:

- Seek to purchase **a minimum of two** new propane school buses
- Have access to propane fueling infrastructure currently or can guarantee that they will have access to fueling propane infrastructure after receiving this grant. Some propane dealers will provide the infrastructure components through a lease as part of a long-term fuel agreement.
- Will agree to promotion of the new propane school buses via school newsletters, websites, or educational events put on by a local Clean Cities Coalition.
- Will agree to report to OED on the performance of the new buses

Ineligible Applicants: Private school bus owners or operators

Eligible costs: The incremental cost between buying a new propane-powered bus and buying a new diesel or gasoline-powered bus. The grant only covers the bus itself, not the fueling infrastructure equipment. The new bus propane engine must be certified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the fuel system installation must meet NFPA 52 guidelines. The bus must be capable of seating 30 or more people. Eligible buses can be found here.

Ineligible costs:

- Fueling infrastructure or ongoing fueling costs
- Bus retrofits from a diesel or gasoline-powered system to a propane-powered system
- Shipping or maintenance costs
- Purchases made prior to November 2015

Available Funding:

- OED anticipates awarding approximately $300,000. OED reserves the right to decrease or increase this amount. The maximum award per grant will be $50,000.
- Applicants can apply for 50% to 100% of the incremental costs between buying a new propane-powered bus and buying a new diesel or gasoline-powered bus. This amount is capped at $10,000 per vehicle.

Timelines:

- Applications are due October 16, 2015 at 5:00 PM ET
- OED will select and notify grant winners by the end of October 2015. Grantees will receive their contracts to sign and review and can begin ordering school buses
- Selected grantees must provide OED with invoices for reimbursement no later than May 1, 2016
- Selected grantees must report on their fuel usage and miles driven quarterly for one year after the buses are first put in use

Resources for Your Grant Application:

- Applicants can contact their local Clean Cities Coalition for technical assistance. Clean Cities Coalitions are supported by the US Department of Energy and serve as a resource for fleets that seek to deploy alternative fuels and technologies.

Greater Indiana Clean Cities
Kellie Walsh
317.834.3754
Kellie@greaterindiana.com
www.greaterindiana.com

South Shore Clean Cities
Carl Lisek, Executive Director
219-644-3690
info@southshorecleancities.org
www.southshorecleancities.org

Application Process:

- Read the application instructions and find the application form at www.in.gov/oed/2733
- Email your application package to grants@oed.in.gov by 5:00 PM ET, October 16th. Title your email "Indiana Propane School Bus Grant."
- Your application package should include the following
    - Application form
    - Bids on the new propane school buses, as well as bids on an equivalent diesel or gasoline bus. The latter is used to show the cost differential between a propane bus and a diesel or gasoline powered bus. The bids must show the bus specifications, price, and vendor contact information.
    - Proof that the engine of the new school propane school bus is EPA certified
    - Proof that the propane system is installed according to NFPA 52 guidelines
    - Proof that the applicant will have access to fueling propane infrastructure after receiving this grant. Some propane dealers will provide the infrastructure components through a lease as part of a long-term fuel agreement.

Scoring Criteria:

- Applications will be scored according to the following criteria:
  - Vehicle miles driven annually per bus
  - Diesel gallons or gasoline gallons displaced annually
  - Level of cost-share provided by the grantee. OED will fund between 50% and 100% of the incremental costs
  - Demonstrated need for this project and how this project will impact the applicant's school corporation
  - Applicant's plan to educate its community and peers on the value of the propane buses
  - Quality and clarity of application
- Applications that do not provide proof of the following will be disqualified:
  - EPA Certified propane engine
  - The fuel system installation must meet NFPA 52 guidelines
  - Access to propane fueling infrastructure

Questions about the Grant Opportunity: Please direct questions to grants@oed.in.gov.