



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2022**  
**CONTACT:** Lauri Keagle, Communications Director  
(219) 644-3698 or [lkeagle@drivecleanindiana.org](mailto:lkeagle@drivecleanindiana.org)

## **Crown Point Community School Corp. adds electric bus**

Project marks first electric school bus in Northwest Indiana

CROWN POINT, INDIANA — Crown Point Community School Corporation recently added an electric school bus to its fleet, making it the first district in Northwest Indiana with the technology.

The fully electric school bus was purchased with the help of grant funds acquired in partnership with Drive Clean Indiana.

“Our district is proud to add electric transportation with the purchase of this bus. It’s an exciting opportunity to utilize green energy,” Crown Point Schools Superintendent Dr. Todd Terrill said. “We’ve shared with our school community that they’ll be able to recognize the bus when they see ‘EV’ in front of the bus number.”

The school district added a new, fully electric Proterra school bus after receiving a \$314,747 grant from the Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund in Round 2 of the grant program in August 2020. Drive Clean Indiana wrote the successful grant application and is the project manager for the electric school bus implementation.

The electric school bus was purchased from Kerlin Bus Sales in Silver Lake, Indiana in an effort to support Hoosier businesses through the project. The bus was added to the Crown Point Community School District fleet in late 2021.

The electric school bus is a 100% zero-emission vehicle and will eliminate the district’s consumption of more than 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel over the life of the bus. The electric bus will also eliminate more than 226 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. That is the equivalent of removing nearly 50 passenger vehicles from the roads for one year.

The bus is being charged at a charging station installed at the Crown Point Community School Corporation’s Transportation Center and averages 120 miles per three-hour charge from zero battery status.

The bus has also been used as a teaching tool for students at Crown Point High School’s Advanced Auto Class.

“Drive Clean Indiana was thrilled to assist Crown Point Community School Corporation with this groundbreaking, transformational project,” Drive Clean Indiana Executive Director Carl Lisek said. “We applaud the district leaders and school board for their support of electric school buses for a cleaner, healthier environment for its students, bus drivers and residents.”

Governor Eric J. Holcomb in October 2017 signed an executive order outlining steps to distribute Indiana’s \$40.9 million portion of the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund, which was formed as a result of a settlement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Volkswagen Corporation for its violation of the federal Clean Air Act.

The executive order established the 11-member Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund Committee and named the Indiana Department of Environmental Management as the beneficiary of and the administrative agency for the trust fund. Projects eligible for grant funds under the program must reduce NOx emissions from diesel-powered vehicles and equipment and include the replacement and repowering of existing diesel vehicles or equipment with cleaner alternatives serving the same purpose.

Crown Point Community School Corporation is a member of Drive Clean Indiana and the Indiana Green Fleet Program through Drive Clean Indiana’s partnership with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). Drive Clean Indiana – headquartered in St. John, Indiana -- is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed by Legacy Environmental Services, Inc., an Indiana Certified Women’s Business Enterprise. Designated as the 71st Clean Cities coalition on June 15, 1999, Drive Clean Indiana is one of the U.S. Department of Energy’s more than 75 Clean Cities coalitions.

Clean Cities organizations support the nation’s energy and economic security by building partnerships to advance affordable domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. The coalitions achieve this in a number of ways, including the advancement of alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles and sustainable vehicle technologies such as electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure. The efforts reduce the nation’s dependence on imported oil, improve air quality, support local jobs, drive economic development and promote improved quality of life.

###

**CUTLINE 1:** Crown Point Community School Corporation recently added Northwest Indiana’s first electric school bus to its fleet, bus EV63, with the help of grant funds acquired in partnership with Drive Clean Indiana.

**CUTLINE 2:** Students in Crown Point High Schools Advanced Auto Class recently got a look at the district’s new all-electric school bus during a visit from Drive Clean Indiana and Kerlin Bus Sales. Pictured are (l-r) sophomores Fredrik Kenbok, Timothy Watson and Paul Arterburn.

**About Drive Clean Indiana:** Drive Clean Indiana is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed by Legacy Environmental Services, Inc., an Indiana Certified Women’s Business Enterprise. Designated as the 71st Clean Cities coalition on June 15, 1999, Drive Clean Indiana is one of the U.S. Department of Energy’s more than 75 Clean Cities coalitions and is the only Clean Cities coalition in the state of Indiana. The organizations support the nation’s energy and economic security by building partnerships to advance affordable domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. Learn more at [www.drivecleanindiana.org](http://www.drivecleanindiana.org).

**About Crown Point Community School Corporation:** Crown Point Community School Corporation is a K-12 public school district in Northwest Indiana serving more than 8,000 students from Crown Point and parts of Winfield and Cedar Lake. Crown Point Community School Corporation's mission is to create lifelong learners through the highest quality educational program. Learn more at [www.cps.k12.in.us](http://www.cps.k12.in.us).