

# INDIANA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS CONSORTIUM WEBINAR

**May 9, 2023**  
**10 a.m. CST**



# About Drive Clean Indiana

DCI -- 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 71<sup>st</sup> Clean Cities coalition on June 15, 1999, DCI is one of the U.S. DOE's more than 75 Clean Cities coalitions across the country.



# Agenda

- Welcome & Housekeeping (Drive Clean Indiana)
- Drive Clean Indiana Update
- U.S. EPA Update
- Sue Harrison, Director of Transportation at Michigan City Area Community Schools
- Kate Gaziano, Director, Regulatory Affairs & Associate General Counsel, National Propane Gas Association
- Q&A



## 2023 EPA CSB Grant NOFO Overview

With slides from EPA's  
Office of Transportation and Air Quality

# CSB Feedback Efforts and Lessons Learned

## Feedback Efforts

- CSB Grants and Rebates Listening Sessions
- Stakeholder meetings with EPA staff
- Stakeholder input received through CSB helpline

## Summary of Feedback

- Rebate program worked for a majority of school districts
- Gaps in the rebate program:
  - Larger fleets limited by 25-bus maximum
  - Scrappage (i.e., some districts don't own buses to scrap)
  - Prioritization (i.e., differing opinions on prioritization criteria and funding for non-prioritized school districts)

# **Clean School Bus Rebates vs. Grants**

# CSB Rebates versus CSB Grants

While both grants and rebates provide selectees with award funds **prior** to purchasing eligible buses and infrastructure, there are a few differences between these types of funding programs:

	Rebates	Grants
<b>Application Process</b>	Quick and simply application process	Longer, more detailed application process
<b>Selection Process</b>	Selectees determined by a random number generated lottery process	Recipients are selected based on evaluation of application materials
<b>Project period support, flexibility, and duration</b>	Shorter project period; less support and flexibility in funding provided to applicants	Longer application period; may offer more support for applicants during the project, as well as flexibility in funding – such as providing funds for training and administrative costs - and timing of the project such as longer project periods to complete the project.



Application packages must be submitted to EPA via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET.  
For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus).





# **2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program**



# FY23 Clean School Bus Grants NOFO Important Dates

<b>April 24, 2023</b>	<b>Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Opens</b>
<b>May 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. (ET)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Webinar Information Session</b> <i>Webinar links and additional session dates can be found at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants">www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants</a></i>
<b>August 9, 2023</b>	<b>Final Date to Submit Questions</b>
<b>August 22, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. (ET)</b>	<b>NOFO Closes – Application Deadline</b> <i>Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a>) no later than Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) in order to be considered for funding</i>
<b>November 2023 to January 2024</b>	<b>Anticipated Notification of Selection</b>
<b>February to March 2024</b>	<b>Anticipated Awards</b>



Application packages must be submitted to EPA via Grants.gov no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET.  
For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus).



# CSB Grant Program Structure

## School District Sub-Program

Eligible entities: (1) State and Local Governmental Entities (e.g., school districts), (2) Public Charter School Districts, and (3) Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or Tribally-controlled Schools

Minimum of 15 buses  
Maximum of 50 buses

Targeting large single-fleet turnovers that may have been limited by the 25-bus maximum in the rebate program.

## Third-Party Sub-Program

Eligible entities: (1) Nonprofit School Transportation Associations and (2) Eligible Contractors (including OEMs, Dealers, and Private Bus Fleets)

Minimum of 25 buses  
Maximum of 100 buses  
Application must include at least 4 school district beneficiaries.

Targeting school districts - particularly small, rural, Tribal, or low-income beneficiaries - that may benefit from third-party technical support, grant administration, and coordination (e.g., with utilities)



Application packages must be submitted to EPA via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET.  
For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus).



# Prioritization Criteria

## 2023 CSB Grants\*

\*Please note that program criteria may be different from prior CSB funding opportunities and are subject to change in future rounds of CSB funding

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allows EPA to prioritize certain communities that will benefit from the CSB program. For this funding opportunity, prioritized communities include:

### HIGH-NEED SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND LOW-INCOME AREAS

- School districts listed in the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) School District Estimates for **2021** as having 20% or more students living in poverty.
- School districts located in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Title I-funded public school districts and charter school districts not listed in the SAIPE data.
- **Title I-funded large public-school districts (more than 35,000 students and/or more than 45 public schools) that do not meet the 20% SAIPE threshold.**

### RURAL

- School districts identified with locale code “**43-Rural: Remote**” by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

### BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FUNDED SCHOOL DISTRICTS

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT RECEIVE BASIC SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR CHILDREN WHO RESIDE ON INDIAN LAND



Applications due Tuesday, August 22  
[www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

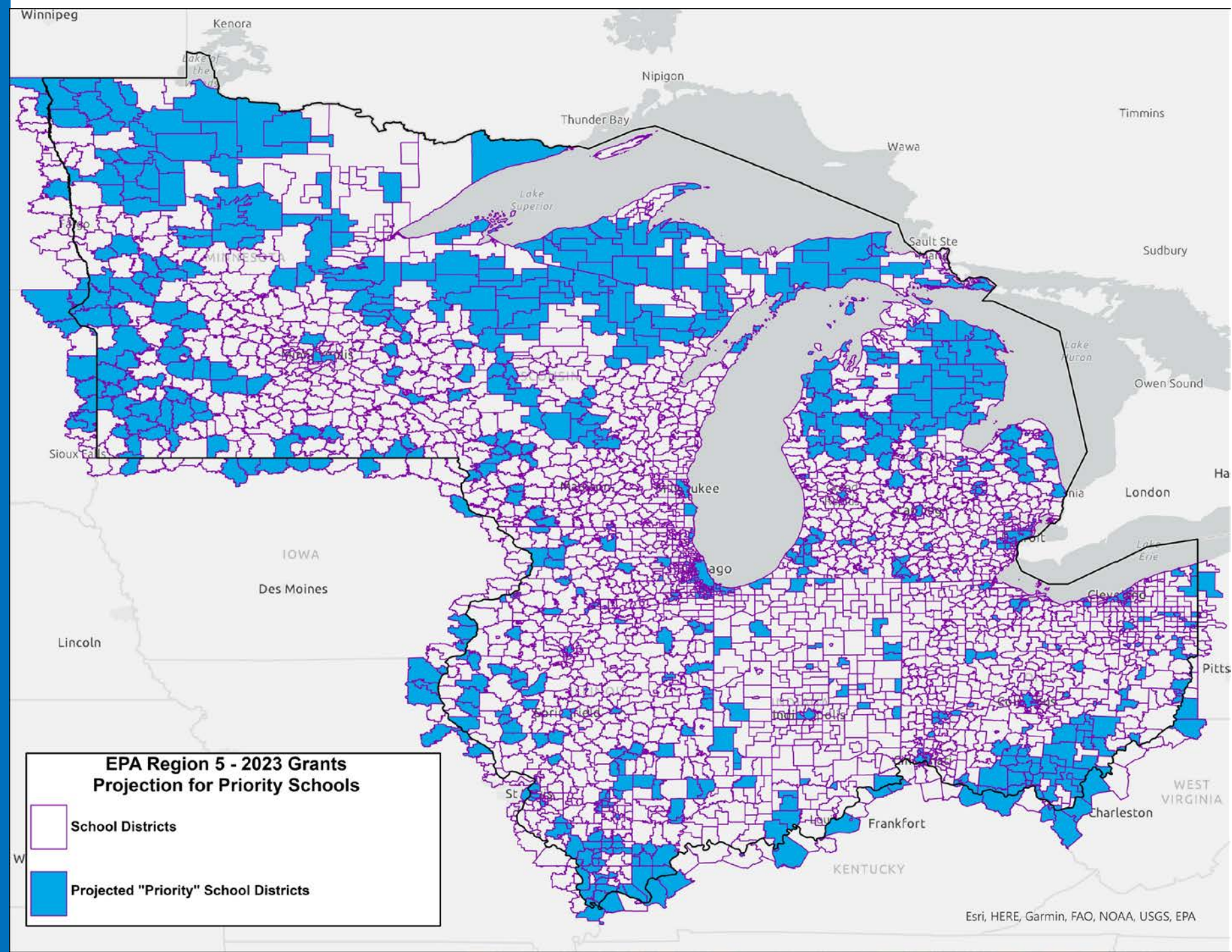


# Prioritization Criteria

## 2023 CSB Grants

Priority School Districts PDF and  
Excel files available at:

[https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/  
clean-school-bus-program-grants](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants)



# What You Need To Do NOW

For EPA CSB Grants OR  
Rebates (coming this fall)

**ALL** School districts and/or potential applicants interested in applying for CSB Grant OR Rebate funding:

**Need an ACTIVE [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration**

School Districts interested in applying directly, or eligible 3<sup>rd</sup> party applicants interested in applying for CSB Grant funding:

**Need to be registered with [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) in order to be able to submit application**



# Got Questions?

Great! But we can't answer them...

**All questions** about the EPA 2023 BIL CSB Grant NOFO must be emailed to [cleanschoolbus@epa.gov](mailto:cleanschoolbus@epa.gov) (please type "Clean School Bus NOFO Question" in the subject line of your email)

Q&A document, updated regularly, will be posted at [EPA's 2023 Clean School Bus Grants web page](#)

Last day to submit questions: Wed. August 9, 2023 at 11:59pm ET





# Sue Harrison

Director of Transportation  
Michigan City Area Schools



# BACKGROUND AND FLEET EXPERIENCE





# BACKGROUND OF MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS

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- **Northwest Indiana**
- **Tourist Community**
- **5500 Students**
- **Transport 4400 Students**





- **12 Schools**
  - **1 High School**
  - **1 Career Center (Trade School)**
  - **2 Middle Schools**
  - **8 Elementary Schools**
- **120 Square Miles**
- **LaPorte and Porter Counties**
- **42 Secondary Routes and 39 Elementary Routes**
- **Over 2400 Miles per Day**

# SCHOOL DISTRICT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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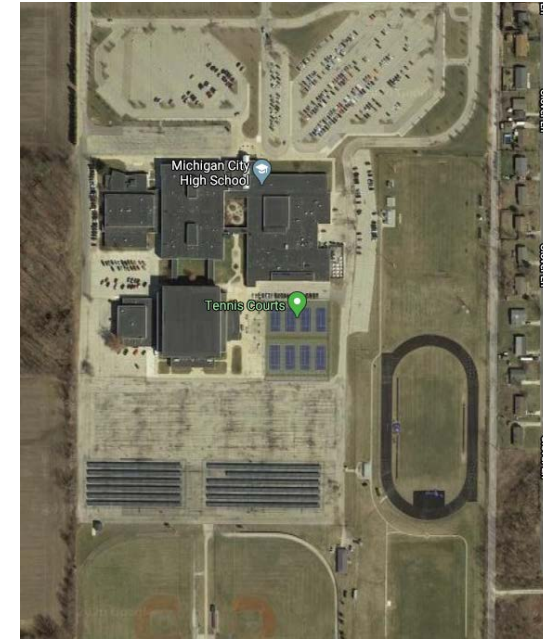


- Numerous State and National Recognitions
- Environmental Education
- Community Service Projects





# **MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS COMMITMENT TO SOLAR ENERGY**



**On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Michigan City Area Schools initiated the largest renewable energy project by a school district. With the installation of Solar Arrays and LED lighting across 7 school facilities, the district is projected to save 23 million dollars over 30 years.**



**What made me research alternate fuels  
and why propane?**

# HOW DID WE GET TO WHERE WE ARE NOW?

- 
- Partnered with the Drive Clean Indiana starting in April 2019 and worked with Ryan Lisek on grant applications
  - Awarded Grant on August 12, 2019 for the amount of \$207,699.00 to replace 8 Diesel School Buses with 8 Propane buses
  - VW Round 2- awarded \$224,653.00 for 8 propane buses in August 2020
  - VW Round 3- Awarded \$210,820.00 for 7 propane buses in December of 2021. Amended in November of 2022 to \$193,453.00 for 6 propane buses due to the increased price of buses
  - EPA Clean School Bus Program: Awarded \$180,000 in October of 2022 for 6 propane buses.



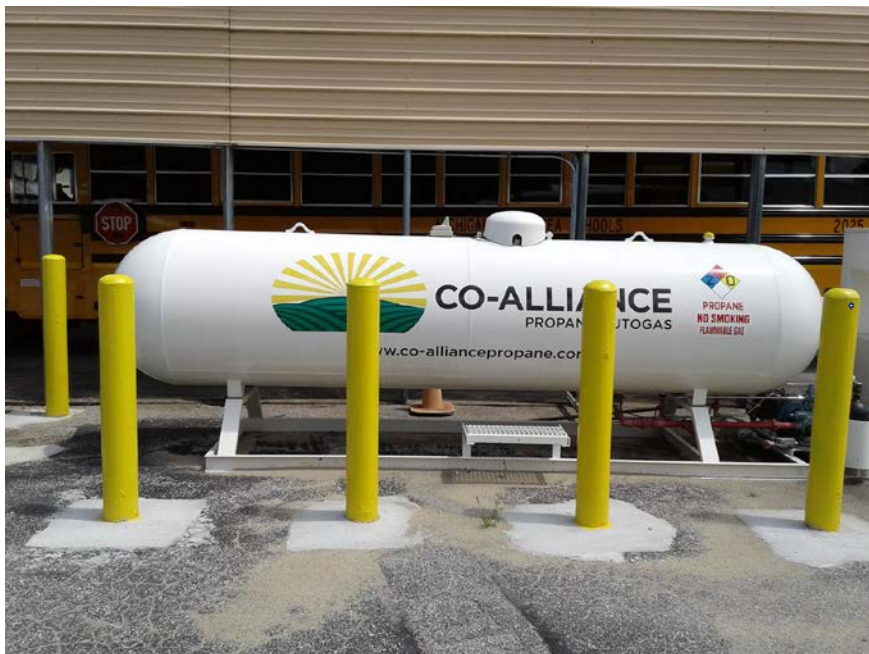
# ORDERING, RECEIVING & DESTROYING

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- Once the initial VW Grant was awarded, bids were obtained for the buses, propane and infrastructure.
- Blue Bird was awarded the bid for the buses, Co-Alliance as the propane supplier and Oscar Larsen was hired to install the infrastructure.
- Received the initial 5 buses in January of 2020 and were put into service the following month.







# ADVICE?

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**Do Your Research!**

**Any additional questions,  
feel free to contact me.**

**Sue Harrison**  
**sharrison@mcas.k12.in.us**  
**219-873-2127 ext. 8607**





# Indiana Clean School Bus Webinar

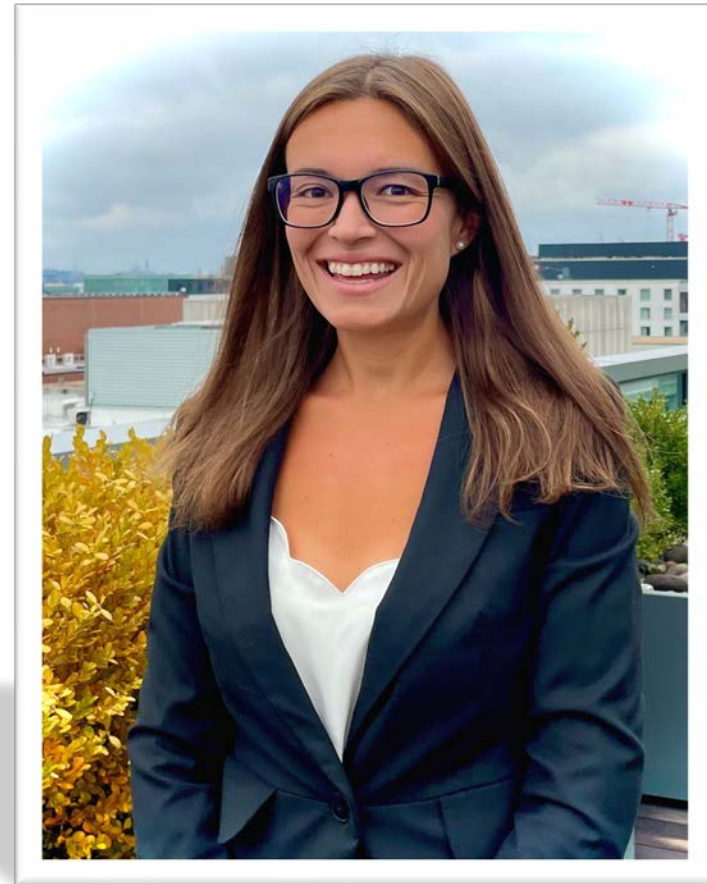
May 2023



# Kate Gaziano

Director, Regulatory Affairs & Associate  
General Counsel

**NATIONAL PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION**





## Environmental Protection Agency – Clean School Bus Program

- On April 24, 2023, EPA released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$400 million in competitive grant funding to replace diesel buses with zero and low emissions buses, including propane buses.
- Eligible applicants include state and local governmental entities; eligible contractors; nonprofit school transportation associations; Indian Tribes, and Tribal organizations.
- Private school bus fleets cannot apply directly for funding. However, eligible applicants listed above can enter into a contractual arrangement with a private fleet that owns and operates buses to replace buses that serve a public school district.
- The first Information Session for this NOFO will be on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. (ET) and applications are due Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

# SNAPSHOT OF PROPANE AUTOGAS SCHOOL BUS MARKET

**1,250,000**

STUDENTS TRANSPORTED

DAILY

STATES WITH

**14**



**500+ BUSES**

**1,000**

DISTRICTS &  
CONTRACTORS  
OPERATE PROPANE  
AUTOGAS BUSES

**22,000+**

PROPANE AUTOGAS BUSES

ON THE ROAD



# Similarly Equipped Type C Bus

Diesel	\$120,000.00
Propane	\$126,000.00
CNG	\$154,000.00
Electric	\$375,000.00



# Similarly Equipped Type A Bus

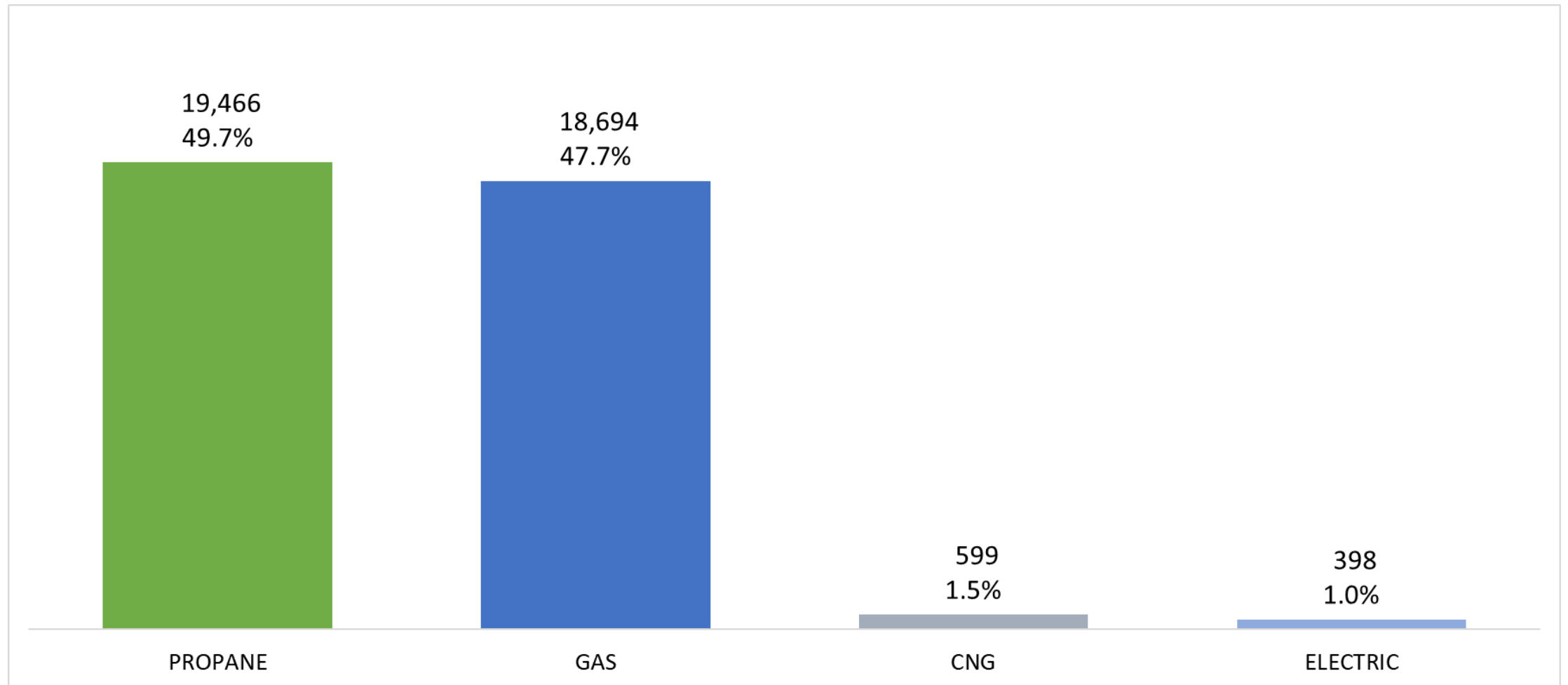
Propane      \$100,000



EV      \$290,000



## Non-diesel Type C School Buses (thru Q2 2022)



Source: IHS Polk data - vehicles in operation

# Benefits of Propane Autogas

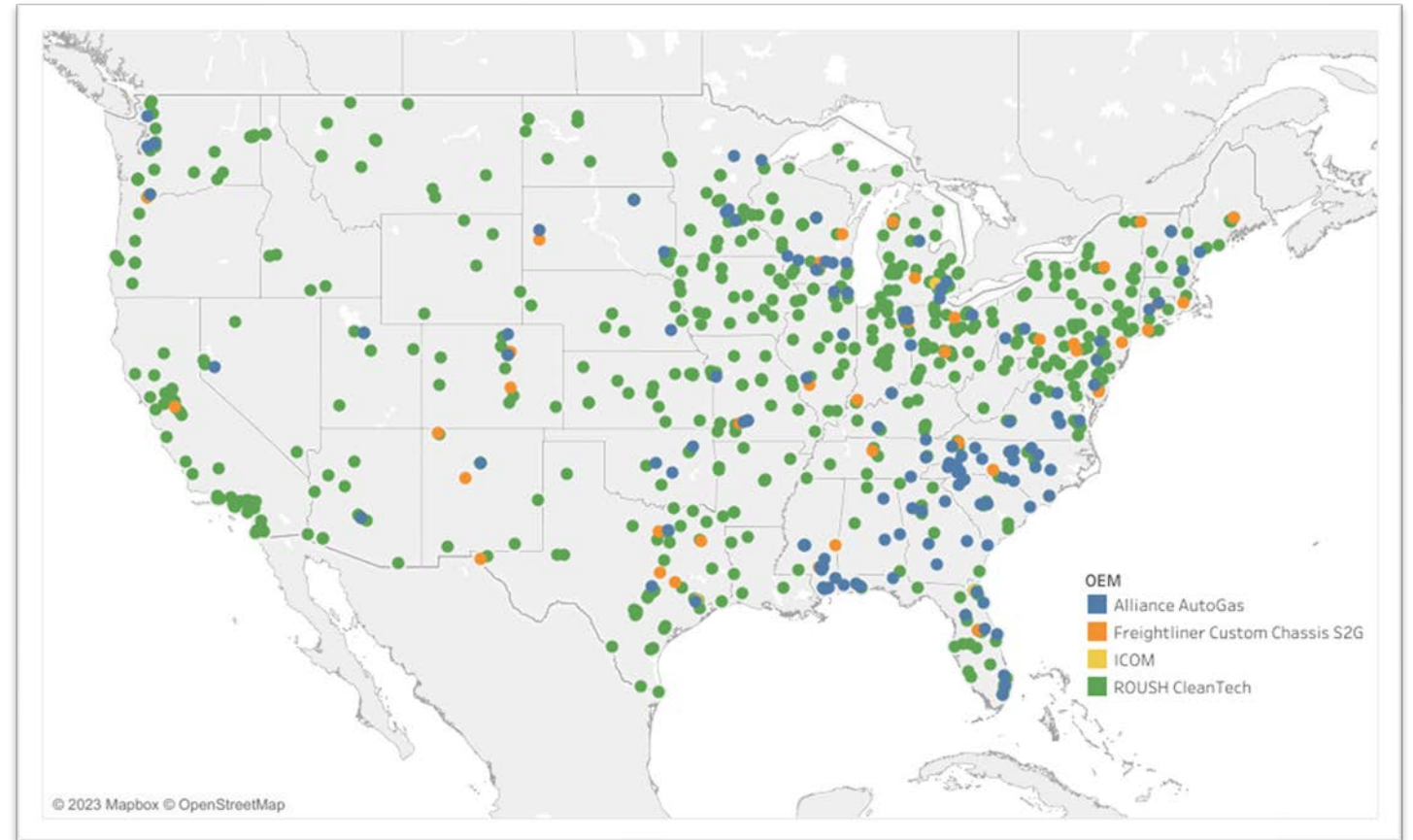
- Cost Effectiveness
  - MD Propane averages 15% of vehicle cost
  - MD EV averages 200% of vehicle cost
- Payload/Range
  - MD Propane –no loss of payload/400+ miles in all weather
  - MD EV – heavy battery weight diminishes payload/100 miles weather dependent (no AC or heat)
- Emissions
  - MD Renewable Propane best blend produces less carbon in all states than EV's best grid in 2035
  - MD Propane including upstream NOx emissions = 0.44 g/mile (CA)
  - MD EV including upstream NOx emissions = 0.83 g/mile (CA)





# Autogas Service Network

- 767 locations
- 48 states



# Fueling Infrastructure Equipment Costs for 25 Trucks

- Propane = \$50k
- CNG = \$400k (25 fixed time fill hoses)
- Electric = \$800k (25 fixed plug in lines)




# QUESTIONS?


## Drive Clean Indiana



 [DriveCleanIndiana.org](https://DriveCleanIndiana.org)

 219-644-3690

 [Info@DriveCleanIndiana.org](mailto:Info@DriveCleanIndiana.org)

 10115 Ravenwood Drive, Suite B  
St John, IN 46375

# NEXT INDIANA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS CONSORTIUM WEBINAR

**June 13, 2023**

**10 a.m. CST / 11 a.m. EST**







## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Student Transportation News Conference**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN

### **Drive Clean Indiana's Annual Conference & Expo**

August 23, 2023 @ Blue Chip Casino, Michigan City, IN

### **Student Transportation Association of Indiana**

June 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> in Westfield, IN

### **Drive Clean Indiana's 11th Annual Clean Air Golf Outing**

September 19, 2023 @ White Hawk Country Club,  
Crown Point, IN



Register at [www.DriveCleanIndiana.org](http://www.DriveCleanIndiana.org)