

INDIANA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS CONSORTIUM WEBINAR

November 14, 2023
10 a.m. CST



Agenda

- Welcome & Housekeeping (Drive Clean Indiana)
- Drive Clean Indiana Update
- U.S. EPA Update
- Q&A

About Drive Clean Indiana

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, DCI is one of the U.S. DOE's more than 75 Clean Cities coalitions across the country.





**EPA CLEAN
SCHOOL BUS**

**2023 Clean School Bus Rebate
Program Launch**

AGENDA

Overview of the Clean School Bus
(CSB) Program



2023 CSB Rebate Program Overview

How to Apply

Next Steps and Resources

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 
Application Process	Quick and simple; applications submitted through EPA portal	Longer, more detailed; applications submitted through grants.gov
Selection Process	Random number generated lottery process	Evaluation of application materials and scoring criteria
Selectee support and flexibility	EPA provides less support and flexibility in funding to selectees	EPA may offer more support for selectees during the project, as well as flexibility in funding – e.g. covering project implementation costs - and timing of the project, such as extending project periods to complete the project.
Number of Replacement Buses	Funds the transition of smaller fleets (lower bus replacement minimum and maximum)	Funds the transition of larger fleets (higher bus replacement minimum and maximum)



Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.
For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.



Clean School Bus Rebates



Quickest timeline fleets
to receive funding



Lower bus minimum and
maximums –
Great for first time adopters
and small fleets



Simple and
straightforward
application, selection, and
funding processes

2023 CSB Rebate Program Details



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Eligible Applicants Who can apply?



State and local governmental entities responsible for: providing bus service to one or more public school systems; or the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses



Public charter school districts responsible for the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses



Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or tribally controlled schools responsible for: providing bus service to one or more Bureau-funded schools; or the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses



Nonprofit School Transportation Associations



Eligible Contractors (OEMs, dealers, private school bus fleets, etc.)

Prioritization Criteria

2023 CSB Rebates*

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

Applications due Jan. 31, 2023.
www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

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 may be eligible to self-certify.***

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

**See the Prioritization Self-Certification Instructions, which can be found on the [CSB Rebates webpage](#), for more information on this option.*



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MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGE:

60% of Funds -> Priority Applicants

40% of Funds -> Non-Priority Applicants



CSB Funding per Replacement Bus

School District Prioritization Status	Replacement Bus Fuel Type and Size					
	ZE – Class 7+*	ZE – Class 3-6*	CNG– Class 7+	CNG – Class 3-6	Propane – Class 7+	Propane – Class 3-6
Buses serving school districts that meet one or more prioritization criteria	Up to \$345,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$265,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$45,000	Up to \$30,000	Up to \$35,000	Up to \$30,000
Buses serving school districts that are not prioritized	Up to \$200,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$145,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$30,000	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$25,000	Up to \$20,000

*Funding levels include combined bus and EV charging infrastructure. Recipients have flexibility to determine the split between funding for the bus itself and the supporting infrastructure.

ADA-Compliant Buses:



Applicants can request up to an **additional \$20k** to purchase ADA-compliant clean school buses of any fuel type equipped with wheelchair lifts.



High Shipping Costs:

Applicants in non-contiguous U.S. states and territories will receive up to an **additional \$20k** per bus to cover high bus shipping costs.



Tax Credits:

Selectees may be eligible for IRA tax credits applicable to their bus and infrastructure purchase(s) not reflected in the funding table.

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Eligible Bus Replacement by Fuel Type



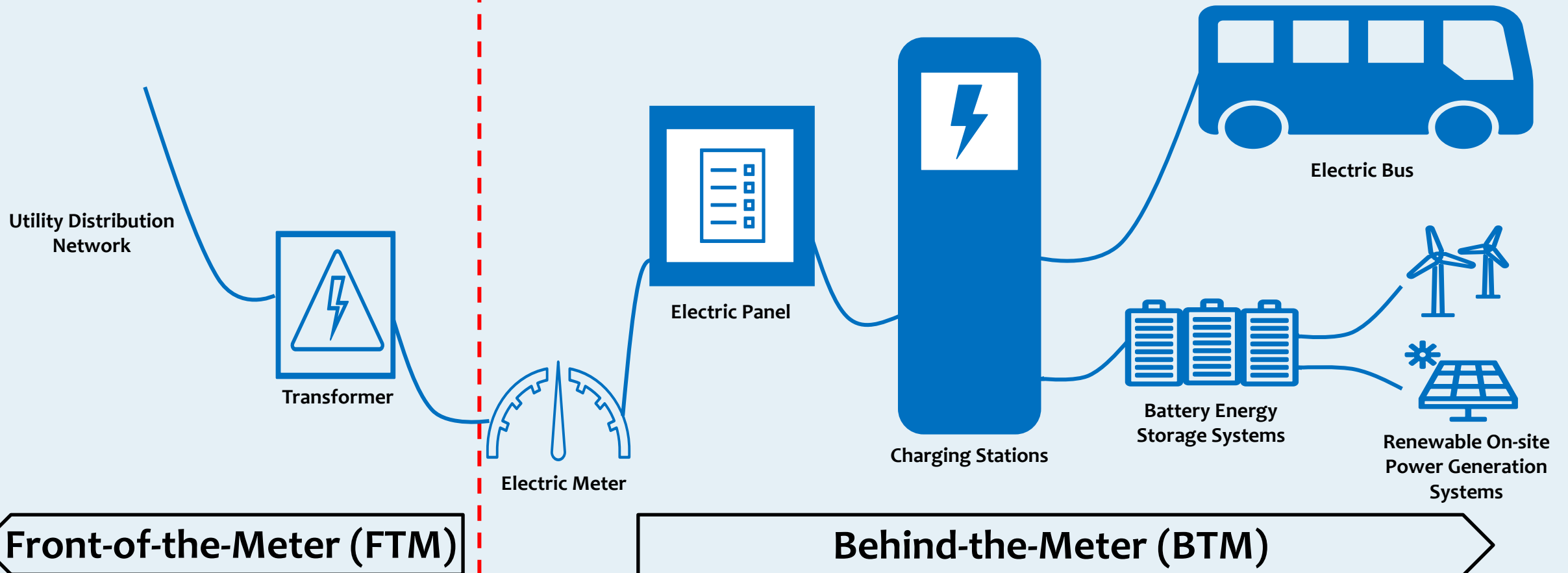
Existing Bus Fuel Type	Replacement Bus Fuel Type		
	Propane	Compressed Natural Gas	Battery-Electric
2010 or Older Diesel Bus	✓	✓	✓
2011 or Newer Diesel Bus*	✗	✗	✓
Gasoline Powered Bus*	✗	✗	✓
Propane Bus*	✗	✗	✓
Compressed Natural Gas Bus*	✗	✗	✓

*Can only be substituted if existing fleet does not have 2010 or older diesel buses available for scrappage; existing, non-diesel internal combustion engine buses that are 2010 or older must be scrapped; existing, diesel or non-diesel internal combustion engine buses that are 2011 or newer may be scrapped, sold, or donated.

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Non-Eligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses



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Next Steps on *How to Apply* and Resources



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Next Steps – *How to Apply*



1. Visit the Clean School Bus Website for Tools & Resources



2. Register your Organization with SAM.gov



3. Complete your Application Form and Supplemental Applicant Forms



4. Submit Application Package by January 31st, 2024 at 4:00pm ET

Selection and Notification



- In accordance with statute, financial assistance will be distributed equally between two funding pools, Zero Emission and Clean School Bus pool.
 - At least 60% of funding from each pool will be awarded to prioritized school districts.
- Applications received by the deadline that meet threshold eligibility criteria will be placed in a single ordered list using a **random number generator lottery process**.
 - This funding opportunity is not first-come, first-served, but EPA recommends applying well in advance of the deadline.
- EPA will select applicants for funding, working from the top to the bottom of the random number order list, until funds are allocated from both the Clean School Bus and Zero Emission halves of funding.
- To ensure a broad geographic distribution of funds, **EPA will select at least one application per state or territory** provided there is at least one eligible application.
- **Prioritized applicants will be selected** within each funding pool.
- Applicants not selected by lottery will remain in random number order on a waitlist up to 90 days after the initial selection notification.



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CSB Program Website Tools and Resources



Technical Assistance

- ➔ • [Clean School Bus Technical Assistance](#)
- ➔ • [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Resources](#)



Workforce Development

- ➔ • [Bus Manufacturer Job Quality and Workforce Development Practices](#)
- ➔ • [Workforce Development and Training Resources](#)



Educational Materials

- ➔ • [Clean School Bus Reports to Congress](#)
- ➔ • [Benefits of Clean School Buses](#)

All links can be found on: [epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

EPA Utility Engagement Pledge



A primary barrier school districts are facing is uncertainty around charging infrastructure deployment and how to engage with electric companies

- **Installation of charging infrastructure can undergo long lead times and requires close coordination with the local utility**



EPA is working with national electric utility company organizations to support school districts through a Utility Pledge that includes:

- **Facilitating Communication Between Electric Providers and School Districts**
- **Providing Technical Support and Assistance**
- **Increasing Funding and Deployment**



Additional information on the Utility Pledge and other technical assistance resources are available on: [epa.gov/cleanschoolbus technical assistance](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/technical-assistance)

Important Dates

September 27, 2023	2023 Rebate Program Opens
September 2023 – January 2024	Various Webinars on CSB Program <i>More information can be found on the epa.gov/cleanschoolbus website under the ‘Webinars’ section.</i>
January 10, 2024 by 4:00 pm (ET)	Final Date to Submit Questions
January 31, 2024 by 4:00 pm (ET)	Application Deadline
April 2024	Anticipated Notification of Selection
April 2024 – October 2024	Selectees submit Payment Request Forms with purchase orders
April 2026	Project Period Deadline



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Upcoming Webinars

October 4, 2023	Panel Discussion: 2022 Rebate Selectees with Q&A
October 12, 2023	JOET: Technical Assistance Overview & Utility Planning with Q&A
October 17, 2023	Panel Discussion: Selectee and Utility with Q&A
November 2, 2023	JOET: Fleet Planning & Route Analysis with Q&A
November 14, 2023	Panel Discussion: Transportation Directors with Q&A
December 13, 2023	OIG: Fraud Prevention & Best Practices with Q&A
January 10, 2024	Popular Q&A with Extended Q&A Session
January 24, 2024	CSB Outreach: Topic TBD
February 7, 2024	2023 Rebates Feedback and Next Steps

**Please note: Webinar topics are subject to change. To view the most up-to-date list of CSB webinars and register, please visit: www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/events-related-clean-school-bus-program*



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- Looking for coalition member to send rebate notification to all IN school districts
- Notification contains rebate info flyer and an invite to join our coalition
- Please email Cranberg.Carter@epa.gov if you can help

- Timing –
 - 4-month application window and avoids school breaks
- Eligibility –
 - Public charter schools and private fleets can now apply on their own
 - This change is from the 2023 Omnibus and went into effect for the 2023 Grants as well
- Prioritization –
 - Rural is only locale code 43 'rural remote' (this change was made in the 2023 grants and carried over to the 2023 rebates)
 - Note that many code 42 'rural distant' applicants are accounted for in other prioritization criteria
 - Self-certification process carried over from 2023 Grants
- Replacement Bus Requirements –
 - Added some new elements and changed slightly for clarity.
- Eligible Infrastructure Definition –
 - Changed to 'behind-the-meter' for clarity and to be better aligned with ESB projects.
- Electrician Training Requirement –
 - All electricians working on a ESB project must have a certification (same as 2023 grants)



Summary



- Funding –
 - Bus and EV infrastructure funds have been combined to allow selectees greater flexibility (same as 2023 grants)
 - Funding levels for propane and CNG is higher than 2022 Rebates, but same as 2023 grants
 - Funding levels for ESBs are \$50K lower than 2023 grants and 2022 rebates, but IRS tax credits are available to most applicants
 - Additional \$20,000 per bus can be requested for wheelchair lifts
 - Additional \$20,000 can be requested for locations outside of lower 48 states to account for shipping of the buses
 - Expanded the explanations under eligible infrastructure and other eligible expenses for clarity.
- Supplemental Application Docs –
 - All applicants are required to fill out a School Board Awareness Certification
 - Third-party applicants are required to fill out a School District Approval Certification
 - Applicants requesting ESBs are required to fill out a Utility Partnership Agreement.
- Selection Process –
 - To ensure a broad geographic distribution of funds, EPA will select at least one application per state or territory (regardless of fuel type) provided there is at least one eligible application (different from 2022 rebates where top ESB project was selected).
 - At least 60% of funding from each pool will be awarded to prioritized school districts.
- Scrappage –
 - There are no scrappage exceptions (same as 2022 rebates, but different than 2023 grants)

**To schedule a meeting,
please contact:**



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Become a member of Drive Clean Indiana

What Our Clients Say



Being a member of Drive Clean Indiana has been increasingly beneficial thanks to their efforts to promote and educate its members and the public about federal, state and even local incentives for investing in alternative fuel systems. Drive Clean Indiana also helps connect businesses and government entities to the CNG & alternative fuel marketplace, providing support for challenges faced along the way.

Tim Ozinga, Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete




Scan the QR Code with your phone or visit
www.drivecleanindiana.org/apply-online/

QUESTIONS?


Drive Clean Indiana



 DriveCleanIndiana.org

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 10115 Ravenwood Drive, Suite B
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Next Indiana Clean School Bus Consortium Webinar

December 5, 2023
10 a.m. CST / 11 a.m. EST

