

**From:** Tom Ortman  
**To:** [VWSettle](#)  
**Subject:** VW Funds Allocation  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 8, 2018 2:52:02 PM

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May 08, 2018

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Air Quality Division  
Implementation Grants Section, MC-204  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, TX 78753  
ATTN: VW Settlement

Dear Sir / Madam:

I am writing in regard to the Volkswagen State Environmental Trust and the funds that Texas will receive accordingly. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback regarding allocation of these funds.

I have spent a career in the product development business, with a substantive focus on renewable energy products and technologies including; solar, wind, energy storage, smart grid, electric vehicles, etc. I have recently refined my focus more specifically into Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). Through my years of work and study, it has become clear that;

1. Texas is an energy state. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century energy lay in the ground. 21<sup>st</sup> century energy will come from the air, in the wind and the sun. Texas can continue / is continuing to be the largest energy producing state.
2. Solar Energy production, wind energy production, battery energy storage systems, electric vehicles (bi-directionally, both as loads and vehicle to grid (V2G) distributed energy resources (DER)), and smart grid management are all part of a natural continuum. These are all maturing here now.
3. Mirroring the historical benefits of oil and gas, these new technologies which are being developed and proven here will create enormous economic development, wealth building and tax base developing opportunities for those with the vision to capitalize on this future.

The VW Fund is a perfect vehicle to cement the leadership of Texas in the coming renewable energy economy. TCEQ has an opportunity to multiply the \$209 million fund to a much greater return, gaining not only the environmental benefits of emissions reductions, but leveraging these funds to create a self-sustaining economic engine. That engine will be comprised of the technology areas that I mention in #2 above. Wind and Solar have a meaningful “head start” and are maturing rapidly. Energy storage and vehicle electrification are due next, with Smart Grid interweaving it all together.

When we consider some of the state’s largest emissions producers; coal fired power plants, locomotives (especially switchers and local / short haul), and tractors (semi, industrial, agricultural, construction), come to mind as the major offenders. These are the obvious area of focus for new mitigation funds. All of these may be addressed by the continuum in #2 above. Considering the maturity in the solar and wind sectors, I propose that the VW funds are best applied to energy storage technology solutions and applications in both grid-scale and vehicle electrification. As a long-term driver of an electric vehicle of particular interest to me would

be the electrification of locomotives, industrial vehicles (construction, mining, agriculture), semi tractors / drayage trucks and fleet vehicles; school buses, service vehicles, delivery vehicles, etc.)

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide public feedback to the allocation of the VW funds.

Sincerely,

Tom Ortman  
Austin, TX