

North Central Texas Council of Governments
North Central Texas Clean School Bus Program
SEP No. 2011-07

Project Description

The Texas Education Agency reports that more than 33 percent of the school buses in local fleets are more than ten years old. These older school buses emit harmful air pollution which directly impacts the health of school children traveling on these buses. This SEP Is designed to reduce nitrogen oxides ("NO_x"), volatile organic compounds ("VOCs"), carbon monoxide ("CO"), and particulate matter ("PM") emissions by replacing older diesel buses with newer buses, or retrofitting them with NO_x reduction technology, that meet more stringent emission standards.

North Central Texas Council of Governments ("NCTCOG") shall provide SEP Funds for up to either 100% of the purchase price of a school bus that is model year 2010 or newer ("Replacement Bus"), to replace a diesel school bus that is model year 2002 or older ("Older Bus"), or 100% of the cost to retrofit an ("Older Bus"), with NO_x reduction technology. Both public school districts and public charter schools ("Schools") are eligible to receive these SEP Funds; however NCTCOG shall limit reimbursement awards of SEP Funds to five per School.

NCTCOG shall give preference to Schools replacing or retrofitting the oldest, most polluting buses that are currently in use. An Older Bus that is not currently in use on a weekly basis is not eligible. NCTCOG shall require that the Older Bus be in regular use, driven on a route to and from school, and owned by the School for the past two years. NCTCOG shall also require that the Older Bus is not already scheduled and budgeted for replacement or retrofit.

Since unnecessary school bus idling wastes fuel and pollutes the air, preference shall also be given to those Schools with a written policy to reduce school bus idling. NCTCOG is not required to report emissions reductions to the SEP Program.

Replacement Requirements

The Older Buses shall be fully decommissioned as specifically required in the SEP Vehicle Replacement Disposition Form. All funds received for the scrap value of the Older Bus shall be deposited into the SEP account, become part of the SEP Funds.

NCTCOG shall ensure that each Replacement Bus purchased has an engine that meets 2010 EPA Standards. Each Replacement Bus may be equipped with air conditioning, a camera system, GPS, and a 2-way radio. Additional equipment not included in the items previously listed on the Replacement Bus shall not be paid for with SEP Funds.

NCTCOG shall require written certification from each SEP Funds recipient that the recipient intends to own and operate the Replacement Bus for the next five years. NCTCOG shall provide this certification in NCTCOG's Final Report.

SEP Funds may be used for a percentage of the purchase price of the bus as long as the purchase is completed and all other requirements of this SEP are met. For instance, if non-SEP matching funds are used to complete the purchase of a Replacement Bus, the entire Replacement Bus must be reported to the SEP Program showing the amount of SEP Funds used for that purchase, the full amount of any scrap value received for the Older Bus, and the full decommissioning of the Older Bus.

Retrofit Requirements

The Older Buses shall be retrofitted with one of the following three NO_x reduction technologies: a Diesel Particulate Filter, a Closed Crankcase Filtration System, or a Diesel Oxidation Catalyst; as specifically required in the SEP Vehicle Retrofit Form.

NCTCOG shall require written certification from each SEP Funds recipient that the recipient intends to own and operate each retrofitted Older Bus for the next five years. SEP Funds may be

used for a percentage of the cost of a retrofit as long as the retrofit is completed and all other requirements of this SEP are met. For Instance, if non-SEP matching funds are used to complete the retrofit of one bus, the entire Bus must be reported to the SEP Program showing the amount of SEP Funds used for the retrofit of that Older Bus.

Project Area

NCTCOG's project area is the 16 county North Central Texas Council of Government's service area. These 16 counties are within TCEQ Air Quality Control Region No. 215. Therefore, NCTCOG may use all SEP Funds for work anywhere In Texas Air Quality Control Region No. 215.

Environmental Benefit

This SEP will directly benefit air quality by reducing harmful exhaust emissions which contribute to the formation of ozone and may cause or exacerbate a number of respiratory diseases, including asthma. In addition, by encouraging less school bus idling, this SEP contributes to public awareness of environmental matters.

Eligible Areas and Counties

This project may receive contributions from the following:

North Central Texas Council of Government's service area and the Dallas Fort Worth Air Quality Control Region No. 215: including Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise Counties.

Minimum Contribution Amount

\$1,000

Total Project Budget

\$1,585,000