

2017 Clean Diesel Rebate Program School Bus Rebate Application Instructions

Nebraska's Clean Diesel School Bus Rebate program is offered by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to assist qualifying applicants to replace eligible older diesel school buses with new buses powered by a 2017 or newer model year engine certified to current emissions standards. Over 45,000 Nebraska school children ride in school buses annually and at least one-half of those buses are older than 10 years. Many of these children are exposed to a disproportionate amount of diesel exhaust that can place them at greater risk for the associated harmful effects. In order to ensure emissions reductions are achieved through this program, the bus being replaced must be permanently disabled. Funding for this year's program is made possible by the Environmental Protection Agency's State Clean Diesel Grant program.

NDEQ will reimburse 25% of the base purchase cost (up to a maximum rebate of \$21,000) of a new diesel or propane-powered bus certified to EPA 2017 emission standards. The school district is responsible for the remainder of the purchase price of the bus (mandatory cost-share). No other federal grant funds may be used to cover any portion of the mandatory cost-share.

***NOTE:** Public school buses in Nebraska with engine model years 2009 and older may be eligible for replacement at an equal or higher reimbursement percentage under a future grant program funded by the Volkswagen Environmental Trust.*

NDEQ anticipates awarding two school bus rebates. The number of bus rebates awarded will be determined by NDEQ after evaluating applications for all Nebraska Clean Diesel programs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Any Nebraska public or private school district/independent school system that offers primary or secondary education is eligible for this funding opportunity. Companies that own buses and have a current agreement with school districts/systems are also eligible to apply if they are either headquartered or have an operational base office in Nebraska.
- Each school district may apply for a maximum of one rebate for one bus.
- Previous Clean Diesel School Bus Rebate recipients are **not** eligible to apply for this rebate.

ELIGIBLE VEHICLES

- Eligible vehicles are operational Class 5 through Class 8 diesel-powered school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating of 16,001lbs or greater and a 1995-2006 engine model year.
- The bus must be used currently to transport students to and from school or school-related activities. Applicants are required to certify that their bus meets these criteria on the application form.
- Applicants must certify on the rebate application that their current bus was not scheduled for replacement before September, 2020.

ELIGIBLE REPLACEMENT BUSES

- School buses with 2017 or newer model year engines certified to EPA emissions standards. The replacement school bus may operate using conventional diesel (ULSD) or alternative fuels (e.g. natural gas, propane, etc.). Diesel engines must be equipped with a diesel particulate filter (DPF).
- The replacement school bus must be in the same gross vehicle weight class and operate in the same manner as the original school bus.
- If the horsepower of the new bus exceeds the horsepower of the old bus by more than 25%, **prior approval** by NDEQ and EPA Region 7 must be obtained before purchasing the new bus.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The new bus cannot be used to expand the applicant's current fleet but must replace a bus that is currently operational and in use. The replaced bus must be disabled (scrapped) within 90 days of replacement.
- If selected for an award, the rebate recipient must maintain ownership of the new school bus for at least three years from the date of purchase. If the new school bus is sold before the end of the three-year period or used for purposes other than what is allowed under this program, the rebate recipient must notify NDEQ and may be required to return up to the full amount of the rebate to NDEQ. The amount required to be returned is at the discretion of NDEQ, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE:

To qualify for a Clean Diesel School Bus rebate, submit the attached Application Form and the supporting documents listed in the Application Materials Checklist before **5:00 pm on December 15, 2017**. Only **one application per applicant** will be accepted, and only **one bus rebate is allowed per application**.

Applications will only be accepted if complete and received in the NDEQ Lincoln office on or before 5:00 pm December 15, 2017.

Applications that are received or remain incomplete after **5:00 pm on December 15, 2017** will be ineligible.

If the number of eligible applications is greater than the number of available rebates, NDEQ will hold a public drawing on December 18, 2017 at 10:30 am CDT to determine the rebate recipients. The drawing will be held at the NDEQ Office, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, NE 68509, in Room 424. All applications that are determined to be eligible will have an equal chance of being selected.

All eligible applications will be drawn and will be placed in the corresponding order. NDEQ will reserve rebate funds for the first applicants drawn (up to the number of available rebates), while the remaining applicants will be held on the alternate list. If an applicant on the rebate list withdraws or is disqualified, funds will be offered to the next applicant on the alternate list.

APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist to ensure you've submitted all required materials with your application. A complete application will include all the documents listed below.

- Completed and signed application form.
- An organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the rebate form. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or visiting the D&B website at: www.dnb.com.
- Photocopy of the Nebraska vehicle registration for the bus being replaced.
- Photocopy of the title of the bus being replaced.
- Photograph of the bus (side profile) being replaced showing the vehicle unit identifying number.

REBATE ACCEPTANCE:

1. All rebate recipients must sign an agreement with NDEQ. *The new bus cannot be purchased until the signed agreement is on file at NDEQ.*
2. Once NDEQ has received the signed agreement, the applicant will be notified that they can complete the purchase of the new bus. **Note: The date of the purchase order cannot pre-date the date the agreement was signed.**

REIMBURSEMENT TIMELINE: By **August 30, 2018**, the selectee must have completed the following:

1. Accept delivery of the new bus;
2. Scrap the old bus in accordance with the program requirements*; and
3. Submit the Request for Reimbursement Form, the Final Report Form, and all required supporting documentation once the new bus has been purchased and received.

Once the reimbursement documents have been received, NDEQ may perform an inspection (if necessary). After the documents have been reviewed and approved, NDEQ will issue the rebate funds.

***Scrappage:**

The old bus being replaced must be scrapped (permanently disabled) within 90 days of replacement and prior to submission of the reimbursement request to NDEQ. Scrappage consists of:

1. Cutting, drilling, or punching a 3" by 3" hole completely through the engine block.
2. Cutting completely through the chassis frame rails on either side between the front and rear axles.

For complete scrappage documentation requirements, refer to the **2017 School Bus Rebate Selectee Information** web page at <http://deq.ne.gov/Publica.nsf/pages/17-021>.

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Only signed and dated original applications received by mail, e-mail, or in person at the address below will be accepted. Rebate applications cannot be submitted by fax. **The application deadline is 5:00 pm December 15, 2017. Applications received after 5:00 pm on December 15, 2017 will not be eligible. Applications that remain incomplete after 5:00 pm on December 15, 2017 will also not be eligible.** The department is not responsible for any applications that are delayed or lost in the mail. Applicants will receive an e-mail confirming NDEQ's receipt of the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their application was received by the department by the respective deadline.

Mail, e-mail, or hand-deliver applications to: Nebraska Clean Diesel Rebate Program
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
1200 N Street, Suite 400
Lincoln NE 68509-8922
NDEQ.AirQuality@nebraska.gov

Questions? Email us at NDEQ.AirQuality@nebraska.gov

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Section 1 – Applicant Information

School/Company Name: _____

Project Manager (if different from authorized signatory): _____

Address: _____

City State Zip Code

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Employer/Taxpayer No. (EIN/TIN): _____ DUNS Number: _____

County in which school bus operates: _____

Section 2 – Original Bus Information

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)	
Bus Unit Number	
Vehicle make	
Vehicle model	
Vehicle year	
Engine model	
Engine model year (1995 to 2006 eligible)	
Engine manufacturer	
Engine EPA Family Name (see FAQ for more information)	
Engine horsepower	
Gross Vehicle Weight Rating	
Fuel Type	
Annual Fuel Consumption	
Annual Hours Idling	
Annual number of miles traveled	

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Section 3 – Early Replacement Statement

The purpose of the Clean Diesel Program is to reduce emissions by the early replacement of polluting vehicles. To meet EPA requirements, please provide a statement below certifying that the specified bus is not scheduled to be replaced before September 2020. If your district has a written bus replacement schedule or policy, attach a copy of it with your application.

What is the average length of time (years) your district keeps a bus in service? _____

Section 4 – Applicant Certification

Owner or Authorized Representative: I certify to the best of my knowledge that:

- The information contained herein is true and correct.
- The school bus is not scheduled for replacement prior to September, 2020.
- The school bus would not be replaced without financial assistance from NDEQ.
- The school bus being replaced is currently in use, in proper working condition, and is currently used to transport students to and from school or school-related activities. If selected for an award, the new school bus will perform these same functions.
- If selected for an award, the school/company will maintain ownership of the replacement school bus for at least three years from the date of purchase. I understand that if the replacement school bus is sold before the end of the three-year period or used for purposes other than specified in the conditions of this grant program, the school may be required to return up to the full amount of the rebate to NDEQ. The amount required to be returned is at the discretion of NDEQ, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- The new bus will not be used for fleet expansion.
- The applicant is either headquartered or has an operational base in Nebraska and the new bus will continue to operate in Nebraska.
- The bus to be replaced will be properly disposed of in accordance with the requirements of this agreement.
- I understand that I will not be eligible for any projects in which costs were incurred before the project period began and after the project period ends.
- I am not currently debarred or suspended from receiving federal funding.
- I have the legal authority to sign this agreement.
- I acknowledge that failure to provide all applicable information and supporting documentation may result in the denial of my application.

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Signature

Date

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