

2021 Clean Diesel Rebate Program

Diesel School Bus Rebate Application Instructions

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) Clean Diesel Rebate Program is offering rebates to replace older diesel school buses with cleaner buses powered by a diesel, gasoline, or Low-NOx propane engine with engine model year 2019 or newer. To ensure emissions reductions are achieved through this program, each bus being replaced must be permanently disabled. Funding for this year's program is made possible by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's State Clean Diesel Grant program.

NDEE will reimburse:

- 35% of the base purchase cost of a new or used school bus powered by a propane engine certified to meet 2019 or later California Air Resources Board (CARB) Optional Low-NOx Standards (see below). The maximum rebate amount is \$33,000.
- 25% of the base purchase cost of a new or used school bus powered by a diesel or gasoline engine certified to meet 2019 or later EPA or CARB emissions standards. The maximum rebate amount is \$21,000.

The school bus owner is responsible for the remainder of the purchase price (mandatory cost-share). No other federal grant funds may be used to cover any portion of the mandatory cost-share.

NDEE anticipates awarding rebates for eight (8) diesel or gasoline and two (2) Low-NOx propane replacement buses. NDEE will determine the number and type of school rebates to award after evaluating applications for all Nebraska Clean Diesel programs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Any Nebraska public or private school district or school system that offers primary or secondary education.
- 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 applicant may submit only one application for replacement of one bus.
- Previous recipients of school bus rebates through NDEE are eligible to apply, but preference will be given to schools that are not previous recipients.

VEHICLES ELIGIBLE FOR REPLACEMENT

- Operational diesel-powered school bus (Type A, B, C, or D) with engine model year 2009 or older (diesel or gasoline replacement), or engine model year 2017 and older (Low-NOx propane replacement).
- The bus must be used currently to transport students to and from school or school-related activities.
- The bus must be painted National School Bus Glossy Yellow and the words "School Bus".
- The applicant must certify that they have owned and operated the bus to be replaced during two full years prior to the date of submission of the application.
- The bus must have driven at least 7,000 miles during calendar year 2019 (January-December).
- The bus must have at least three years of remaining life at the time of the application (as estimated by the owner based on age, usage, and condition).

ELIGIBLE REPLACEMENT BUSES

- New or used buses with 2019 or newer model year propane-fueled engines certified to meet CARB's Optional Low-NOx Standards of 0.1 g/bhp-hr, 0.05 g/bhp-hr, or 0.02 g/bhp-hr NOx.
- New or used buses with 2019 or newer model year diesel, gasoline, or alternative-fuel engines certified to meet EPA emissions standards.
- The replacement bus must resemble the replaced bus in form and function.

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- The replacement school bus must be in the same or lower Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) class as the existing bus. **GVWR Class 4** = 14,001 to 16,000 lbs, **Class 5** = 16,001 to 19,500 lbs, **Class 6** = 19,501 to 26,000 lbs, **Class 7** = 26,001 to 33,000 lbs, **Class 8** >= 33,001 lbs.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- A replacement bus cannot be used to expand the applicant's current fleet but must replace a bus that is currently in use. The replaced bus must be disabled (scrapped) within 90 days of replacement.
- Applicants must submit documentation of ownership for the prior two years for the bus to be replaced and for usage and annual mileage for calendar year 2019.
- One bid or quote for the replacement bus must be submitted with the application.
- If selected for an award, the rebate recipient must maintain ownership of the bus for at least five years from the date of purchase and continue to operate it in Nebraska. If a new bus is sold before the end of the five-year period, moved out of state, or used for purposes other than specified under this program, the rebate recipient must notify NDEE and may be required to return up to the full amount of the rebate to NDEE. The amount required to be returned is at the discretion of NDEE and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Recipients may be required to file annual reports of mileage and fuel use for the duration of the agreement.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE:

To qualify for a Clean Diesel rebate, submit the attached Application Form and the supporting documents listed in the Application Materials Checklist before **5:00 pm on January 13, 2022**. Only **one application per applicant** will be accepted.

Applications will only be accepted if complete and received in the NDEE Lincoln office on or before 5:00 pm Thursday, January 13, 2022.

APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

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

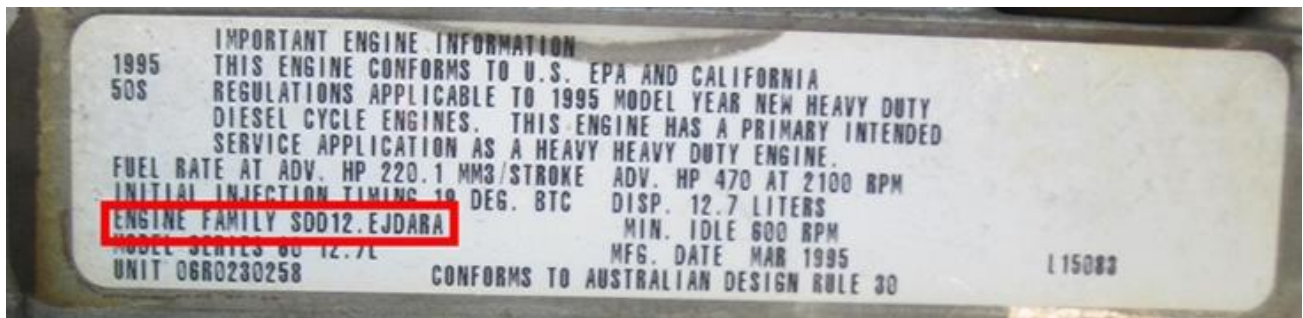
- Completed and signed application form.
- An organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the rebate form. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the 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.
- Documentation of usage and annual mileage for the previous two years (e.g. maintenance records showing odometer readings).
- Photograph of the bus (side profile) being replaced showing the vehicle unit identifying number.
- One bid or price quote for the replacement bus, including estimated delivery dates.
- Photograph of the diesel engine emissions label showing the EPA Engine Family (see below).

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DIESEL ENGINE EMISSIONS LABEL AND EPA ENGINE FAMILY:

NDEE’s grant from EPA requires documentation of the engine model year of the vehicle to be replaced. The EPA Engine Family is a 12-character (letters and numbers) identifier assigned when a diesel engine model is certified in compliance with EPA emission standards. The first character in the EPA Engine Family identifier is a code for the model year of the engine. Some examples of diesel engine emission labels showing the EPA Engine Family are shown below.



If the engine emissions label is missing or illegible, applicants should provide the engine serial number to the engine manufacturer or the bus dealer to obtain written confirmation of the engine model year and submit that manufacturer’s confirmation with their application.

SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

If the number of complete, eligible applications is greater than the number of available rebates, rebate recipients will be drawn by lottery. Each applicant that has not received a previous school bus rebate will have two entries in the drawing, while each previous rebate recipient will have one entry in the drawing. Applicant names will be drawn and placed in corresponding order (omitting duplications) until the number of

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available rebates is reached. The remaining applicant names will be drawn and placed in order on an alternate list. If an applicant on the rebate list withdraws, funds will be offered to the next applicant on the alternate list.

REBATE ACCEPTANCE:

1. All rebate recipients must sign an agreement with NDEE. ***The replacement bus cannot be ordered or purchased until the signed agreement is on file at NDEE. The date of the purchase order cannot pre-date the signing date of the agreement.***
2. After NDEE has received the signed agreement, the applicant will be notified that they can complete the ordering and purchase of the new bus.

REIMBURSEMENT TIMELINE: By **August 31, 2023**, 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 listed below
3. Submit the Request for Reimbursement Form, Certification of Engine/Chassis Destruction form, and all required supporting documentation after the new bus has been purchased and received.

When the reimbursement documents have been received, NDEE may perform an inspection. After the documents have been reviewed and approved, NDEE 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 NDEE. Scrappage consists of:

1. Cutting, drilling, or punching a 3" by 3" hole through the wall of 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 **2021 Clean Diesel Rebate Program** web page at <http://dee.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/NCDGP>.

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Only signed and dated original applications received by mail or e-mail at the address below will be accepted. Rebate applications cannot be submitted by fax. **The application deadline is 5:00 pm January 13, 2022. Applications received after 5:00 pm on January 13, 2022 will not be eligible. Applications that remain incomplete after 5:00 pm on January 13, 2022 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 NDEE'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 or e-mail application to:

Nebraska Clean Diesel Rebate Program
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln NE 68509-8922
NDEE.AirQuality@nebraska.gov

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