

# UTAH CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROJECT 12/3/2008



School buses are the safest way to transport children to and from school. However, pollution from diesel vehicles has health implications for everyone, especially children. It is estimated that every day, nearly 24 million children travel to and from school on approximately 444,000 school buses nationwide, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This equates to nearly four billion vehicle miles traveled every year.

School bus emissions contain chemicals that can be reduced or removed easily by developed, cost effective technologies. By reducing bus pollutant in the bus cabin and exhaust emissions, we can ensure that school buses are also a very clean way for children to get to school and provide clean-air benefits to communities throughout the state.

## **Overview**

In 2007, the Utah Division of Air Quality started the Utah Clean School Bus Project in conjunction with Utah Office of Education, local school districts, county and municipal governments, as well as community and non-profit organizations. This coalition is working together to secure funding sources for school districts to purchase emission reducing technologies for buses statewide.

Retrofits are aftermarket vehicle additions that help reduce harmful pollutants found in the bus cabin and in tailpipe emissions. The selected technologies are efficient, easy to install, and cost effective. Based on analyses, recommendations, and cost effectiveness the Utah Division of Air Quality is recommending the use of Diesel Oxidation Catalyst and Closed Crank Ventilation systems for this project. More information about these technologies can be found on the following website.

- <http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/retrofit.htm>

The technologies are expected to reduce particulate matter by 40%, carbon monoxide by 60% and volatile organic compounds (hydrocarbons) by 75%. Based on initial analysis the cost per bus is \$2,025. The total projected statewide cost for the project is \$3,500,000

Several sources of funding have been secured for the project. These include money from the Clean School Bus Project USA and the Clean Fuel Vehicles Grant and Loan Program, funds from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality as appropriated by House Bill 146 (2008) and money from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) fund.

## Timelines

Utah's Clean School Bus Retrofit Project is underway. The overall project will be broken up into several phases. Each phase will focus on a particular geographic area of the state. Depending on current funding levels, some phases may run concurrent with one another.

The first phase is in the Southwest area of the state and involves the Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Millard, Piute, Sevier, South Sanpete, Washington, and Wayne school districts. In addition, buses from the Murray School District will be included in this first phase of the project. A total of 258 buses are expected to be retrofitted in this phase of the project. Installations for this phase start in late December 2008.

The second phase will include all three school districts from Utah County (Alpine, Nebo, and Provo). A total of 360 buses are expected to be retrofitted during this phase. Installation for this phase will start in early 2009.

The next phase is anticipated to include buses from Box Elder, Salt Lake City, Tintic, Tooele, and Juab school districts. This phase will begin when funding becomes available, which is anticipated to be as early as January 2009.

Another phase will also include buses from Granite and Jordan school districts. This phase will begin when funding becomes available, which is anticipated to be as early as September 2009.

## Partners:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Salt Lake County  
Utah Clean Cities  
Utah Department of Transportation  
Utah State Office of Education  
Wasatch Front Regional Council

Mountainland Association of Governments  
Salt Lake City Corporation  
Utah County  
Utah Moms for Clean Air  
Wasatch Clean Air Coalition

<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Match</b>
EPA State Grant (Non competitive)	<b>\$295,320</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HB 146 \$100,000</li><li>• Grant and Loan Fund \$96,000</li></ul>
EPA Competitive Grant	<b>\$400,000</b>	\$4,000
Utah County CAMQ	<b>\$784,000</b>	\$54,000 (UDOT funding)
Salt Lake County CAMQ	<b>\$753,000</b>	\$54,000 (In-kind, Grant and Loan, or \$ from school districts)
Total	<b>\$2,232,320</b>	<b>\$304,000</b>

## Information:

For more information on the retrofit program, call (801) 536-4136 or email [Mat Carlile](mailto:Mat Carlile), [mcarlile@utah.gov](mailto:mcarlile@utah.gov) Retrofit Program Coordinate with the Utah Division of Air Quality.