Adopt A Bus Program
Information

Drive Green, Illinois!

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich
Director Renee Cipriano

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I. Introduction

The Illinois Clean School Bus Program, developed and administered by Governor Rod Blagojevich and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), will provide funding to assist schools/school districts to help reduce emissions from school buses. This program will create partnerships between the business community, the Illinois EPA, and school districts throughout Illinois to utilize advanced emission control equipment, cleaner engines, and cleaner fuels to reduce school bus emissions. The program is open to any public school, school district, or non-profit private school in the State of Illinois.

Schools or school districts can reduce the emissions from their diesel-powered school buses through the installation of oxidation catalysts, particulate filters, and non-idling equipment; the purchase of buses equipped with clean technology engines; and the use of clean fuels such as ultra-low sulfur diesel, biodiesel, natural gas, and propane. In addition, the Illinois EPA plans to work with several partners in educating schools/school districts on improved practices to eliminate unnecessary idling, which will reduce fuel costs, engine wear, and the levels of emissions. The Illinois EPA will review and issue grants for successful applications using currently available federal and state funding, corporate contributions, and other funding as it becomes available.

II. Program Background

Similar to the U.S. EPA’s Clean School Bus U.S.A. program, the Illinois EPA is seeking corporate contributions to implement clean school buses throughout Illinois. This is especially important in the many areas of the State where federal grants and funding resulting from supplemental environmental projects garnered through the enforcement process is limited or not available.

The Illinois Clean School Bus program will apply to existing school buses in the school/school district’s fleet or to new buses equipped with advanced technologies that meet or exceed the upcoming model year 2007 engine emission standards. A new school bus must replace an existing older bus in the fleet. However, the Illinois EPA has the discretion to approve the incremental cost for the purchase of new clean school buses if the applicant provides documentation that the school/school district must expand its fleet due to increased enrollment or changes in routes. With existing buses, the retrofit options that the Illinois EPA is focusing on include the installation of oxidation catalysts and particulate filters to reduce particulate matter emissions. Clean fuels, such as ultra-low sulfur diesel, 20 percent biodiesel blends, natural gas and propane, are also being encouraged. In addition, the Illinois EPA will include non-idling equipment that reduces or eliminates the need for idling.
III. Corporate Funding

The Illinois EPA will solicit contributions from corporations to be used exclusively for the Illinois Clean School Bus Program. All sponsors will be recognized in the marketing materials, program announcements, press releases, and other media associated with the program.

IV. Information

For more information on the Illinois Clean School Bus Program or to possibly participate as a corporate sponsor, please call 217/524-4947 or email: Darwin.Burkhart@epa.state.il.us. For more information on the Illinois Clean School Bus Program, please visit our website at www.epa.state.il.us.