

# Driving Illinois Forward: VW Settlement Opportunities

Under the recent **Volkswagen Clean Air Act Civil Settlement**, Midwest states stand to receive more than \$420 million for local air quality efforts, including electric vehicle infrastructure and air quality mitigation efforts (targeting vehicle and equipment upgrades).

The settlement provides an opportunity to offset more than 40,400 tons of NOx pollution resulting from illegal defeat devices in VW vehicles. This creates a unique opportunity and obligation for Midwest states to modernize public vehicle fleets and infrastructure, reduce harmful diesel pollution, and stimulate economic development across the region.

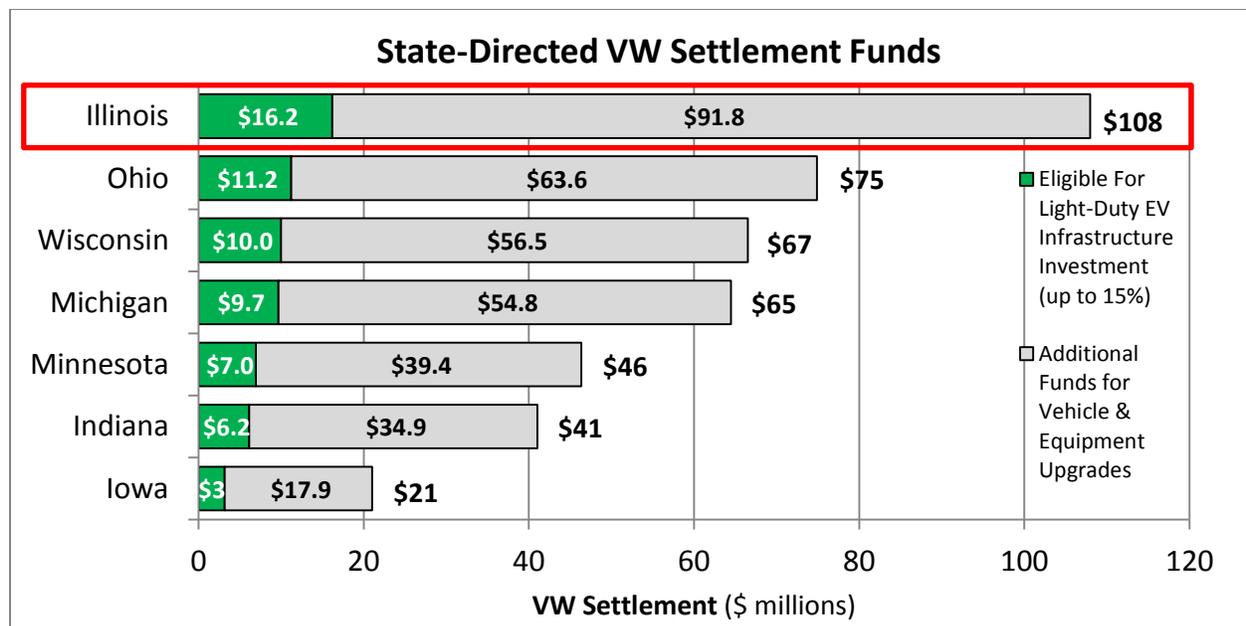
## Illinois's VW Settlement Actions To-Date:

- Illinois has not yet appointed a lead agency, but questions and comments can be directed to Julie Armitage at [Julie.Armitage@Illinois.gov](mailto:Julie.Armitage@Illinois.gov).



## Seizing the VW Opportunity

Illinois has been allocated \$108 million through the VW Settlement Mitigation Trust. These funds must be used towards 10 eligible vehicle and equipment upgrades, with a maximum of 15% (\$16.2 million) for light-duty electric vehicle infrastructure.



## Evaluating Eligible Uses of Funds:

In evaluating potential investments in eligible vehicles, equipment, and technologies, Illinois should focus on specific opportunities to minimize NOx emissions and human exposure while maximizing cost effectiveness and market impact.

Initial research and stakeholder engagement suggests high-impact opportunities in electric vehicle fast-chargers along Illinois's National Charging Corridor highways (I-80, I-90, I-94, I-39, I-55 & I-74) and investment in electric vehicle upgrades for large, public fleets that operate in densely-populated areas. NOx mitigation and vehicle deployment should focus on protecting Illinois's most vulnerable residents.

### A.) Eligible Vehicles & Equipment

|   |
|---|
| 1. Class 8 Trucks                       |
| 2. School / Transit / Shuttle Buses     |
| 3. Freight Switchers                    |
| 4. Ferries / Tugs                       |
| 5. Ocean-Going Vessels                  |
| 6. Class 4-7 Trucks                     |
| 7. Airport Ground Support Equipment     |
| 8. Forklifts & Port Cargo Equipment     |
| 9. Light-Duty EV Infrastructure         |
| 10. DERA Project Non-Federal Fund Match |

### B.) Eligible Technologies

|  |
|--|
| All-Electric / Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) |
| Alternative Fuel                           |
| New Diesel                                 |

### C.) Proposed Prioritization Criteria

1. **NOx Reduction:** Number of vehicles and NOx emissions per vehicle.
2. **Human Risk / Exposure:** Location, hours of operation and daily routes in relation to population density in nonattainment areas.
3. **Cost-Effectiveness:** Total cost of ownership for vehicle life cycle.
4. **Anticipated Market Impact:** Opportunity to transform & scale new market considering existing inventory mix and remaining useful life of equipment.

## What is ELPC doing?

As one of the Midwest's leading public interest and environmental advocacy organizations, the Environmental Law & Policy Center ([www.ELPC.org](http://www.ELPC.org)) is supporting state efforts to maximize this opportunity to modernize public vehicle fleets, reduce harmful air pollution, and grow the Midwest's clean transportation economy.

### ELPC's March 14<sup>th</sup> Webinar: Electric School Buses - A VW Settlement Opportunity

The webinar provides an overview of electric school bus benefits and funding opportunities, with updates and case studies from electric school bus pilot programs across the US.

→ The webinar presentation and materials can be viewed at:

<http://elpc.org/issues/clean-air/elpc-webinar-electric-school-buses-a-vw-settlement-opportunity/>