

January 5, 2003



The wheels will soon begin to turn  
on cleaner buses for children nationwide

**Momentum continues to build as the Clean School Bus USA program proudly marks its first year with a number of accomplishments.**

Since the School Bus Summit in April 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded \$5 million in grants to 17 Clean School Bus USA demonstration projects across the country. With recipients contributing an additional \$5 million in matching resources, these demonstrations are starting to make cleaner buses a reality for today's school children. We have much more to do together in this partnership of public and private sector leaders. For more information visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

**Goals:**

The demonstration projects are important first steps toward the goal of modernizing 100% of the nationwide fleet of about 400,000 diesel buses by 2010. At the School Bus Summit, we set an ambitious charge of providing the cleanest possible transportation for this generation of school children by:

- Reducing school bus idling and reinforcing smart bus operating practices
- Replacing the oldest buses with new, cleaner buses
- Retrofitting buses with modern pollution control technology

The goals can be achieved through the following objectives:

- Assist almost 15,000 school districts to adopt anti-idling & smart bus operating practices
- Replace 130,000 1990 and earlier buses with cleanest available technologies
- Retrofit 260,000 post-1990 buses (or about 37,000 per year)

While these goals are extremely ambitious, we are confident that by working together, we can provide the cleanest and safest transportation for our children.

**Grants and Other Funding Opportunities**

In working to achieve our goals this past year, EPA funded 17 school bus demonstration projects across the country, but these represent only a small portion of the applications we received. The competition was intense for this past year's grants. We received 120 applications totaling almost \$60 million in requests for the \$5 million available. Significantly, applicants offered about \$36 million in matching resources. We are encouraging applicants that didn't get grants this time to continue to investigate funding opportunities. We hope that as additional funding becomes available we will be able to support projects proposed by previous applicants as well as new ones.

For more information about the specific projects and any new funding opportunities, please

visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

Information about the status of the Toyota enforcement settlement monies for school bus retrofit projects can be found at [www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit) We anticipate more activity on the Toyota program in February 2004.

For bus transportation providers who are National School Transportation Association (NSTA) members in conjunction with their school districts, NSTA is accepting applications until January 15, 2004; contact Robin Leeds at phone 860-953-2782 or fax 860-953-8404 or email: [leeds@costa.necoxmail.com](mailto:leeds@costa.necoxmail.com)

#### *Anti-idling and Smart bus operating Practices*

There are many things that every school can do today to reduce children's exposures to exhaust from diesel school buses. We are developing a national campaign that will address the goal of eliminating unnecessary school bus idling and help school districts adopt smart bus operating practices such as revising bus schedules and logistics to minimize school bus caravanning. We will be asking for your help as we move forward with the development of key messages, materials, and incentives.

#### *What Partners can do...*

We want to hear from you – please tell us about any clean school bus related activities you've been involved with since April. Also please let us know if you have updated contact information.

We are considering producing a quarterly electronic newsletter that might spotlight various demonstration projects, anti-idling programs, and partners. We are interested in your feedback about what would be most useful.

We also want your feedback about the value of holding an anniversary event in the spring to chart our future course together.

Please send your thoughts and comments via email to [cleanschoolbususa@epa.gov](mailto:cleanschoolbususa@epa.gov) or call us at (734) 214-4780.