

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch

Mobile and Area Sources Program – Engines and Fuels Unit
4244 International Parkway, Suite 136, Atlanta, Georgia 30354

Mark Williams, Commissioner

F. Allen Barnes, Director

(404) 363-7028

November 4, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent

FROM: William Cook, Engines and Fuels Unit Manager
Georgia Environmental Protection Division

SUBJECT: Application for School Bus Retrofit Project with DERA Funding

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is pleased to announce the availability of funding to retrofit school buses with pollution control equipment. EPD referenced this funding opportunity in the letter sent to you in October. Through the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) State Clean Diesel Grant, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$847,934 to EPD for the purpose of retrofitting school buses. EPD awarded \$212,181 of this funding in the first call for projects and to date has \$637,753 remaining.

EPD is issuing a request for applications (RFA) to school systems in Georgia for purposes of reducing school bus emissions. Eligible projects include the retrofitting of school buses with pollution controls. School systems that choose to retrofit their older school buses can dramatically reduce the pollution emitted from the bus and create a healthier environment for the school children, bus drivers, mechanics, teachers, and communities where the buses operate.

Please note that this grant pays 100% of the cost for the purchase and installation of the emission control devices. No matching funds are required. Although matching funds are not required and no additional consideration is given for providing a match, EPD can use in-kind matching funds to secure additional funding for the Georgia Diesel Emission Reduction Program. Therefore, a section of the application does provide a place to record in any in-kind match such as the use of shop time, bus drivers, etc.

The project application is enclosed, and the deadline for submitting an application is 5:00 p.m. on December 19, 2011. Instructions for application submission are included on the application.

If requests for funding exceed available funds, the following preferences for selection will apply:

- First priority will be given to public school systems with fleets based in counties that are adjacent to designated PM_{2.5} nonattainment or maintenance counties.
- Second priority will be given to public school systems with fleets based in counties that have not been designated as nonattainment for PM_{2.5} and are not adjacent to designated PM_{2.5} nonattainment or maintenance counties.
- Third priority will be given to public school systems with fleets based in counties that have been officially designated as nonattainment or maintenance for the PM_{2.5} standard.

Related to the type of retrofits proposed, applications will be ranked according to the following criteria within each priority as stated above:

1. Retrofit of school buses with devices that reduce PM_{2.5} by a minimum of 50% on school bus engines with model years ranging from 2001 through 2006; and
2. Cost effectiveness of the project (cost per ton of emission reduced over the lifetime of the project).

Please note that school buses retrofitted by this grant must maintain the emission control equipment in good operating condition for a minimum of four years. Therefore, buses that will be retired in less than four years are not eligible for this RFA. All retrofit devices included in applications submitted in response to this RFA must be certified or verified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and/or the California Air Resources Board. Verified devices are listed at the following websites: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/verif-list.htm> and <http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/verdev/vt/cvt.htm>.

For those school systems interested in applying for the DERA School Bus Retrofit RFA, please complete the application and submit it to EPD's Stacy Allman via e-mail, mail, or hand delivery.

Mailing and Street Address: Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Mobile and Area Sources Program
Attn: Stacy Allman
4244 International Parkway, Suite 134
Atlanta, GA 30354

E-Mail Address: stacy.allman@dnr.state.ga.us

The applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on December 19, 2011. For additional information about diesel engine retrofits, please visit the following EPD retrofit website: <http://www.georgiaair.org/retrofit>. Copies of the application are on the website. If an application is submitted by e-mail, please contact Stacy Allman by phone at 404-363-7033 to ensure that the application was received.

Once the RFA closes on December 19, 2011, EPD staff will review each of the applications to ensure that they are eligible as stipulated in the grant criteria. The eligible applications will then be ranked in terms of cost effectiveness.

Recommendations for issuing subgrants will be made to the EPD Director based on the top ranked projects and available funding. EPD estimates that notices of awards and memorandum of agreements will be issued by February 2012.

If you have any questions related to the grant criteria, information contained in the cover letter, or other attachments, please contact Stacy Allman by e-mail or phone at 404-363-7033. Please note that Stacy will share the questions and answers to all of the eligible school systems so that all potential applicants will have the same information. EPD staff will not be able to make comments or answer questions related to the potential scoring or viability of a project while the RFA is open. However, EPD staff can answer any technical questions related to retrofitting school buses.

This RFA does not commit the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to enter into an agreement, to any cost incurred in the preparation of the response to this request or in subsequent exclusive negotiations, to procure, or to contract for the project. In addition, EPD reserves the right to award projects for less than the requested amount.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to receiving your application.

CC: Transportation Directors (via e-mail)