



## DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

### ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY

This directory is for school districts and other stakeholders interested in applying for the [EPA Clean School Bus Program](#) (CSBP) or other federal and state funding opportunities for electric school buses. All of the resources in this directory come from government agencies or non-profit organizations. All of the resources listed are free to access. The directory is constantly being updated with new information and resources as we find them. Please reach out to Carolina at [carolina@chaconconsulting.com](mailto:carolina@chaconconsulting.com) with any questions or comments.

Resources marked with **GET HELP** provide direct assistance.

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## TOP RESOURCES FOR HELP

1. For questions on program guidelines: Your [EPA Regional Office](#) or [CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov](mailto:CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov)
2. For registering for SAM.GOV: [Environmental Protection Network](#) or [SAM.GOV Service Desk](#)
3. For registering for GRANTS.GOV: [The GRANTS.GOV Help Desk](#)
4. For assistance in drafting your application package: Your regional [EPA EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](#) or [Clean Cities Tiger Teams Technical Assistance](#)
5. For technical assistance in deploying electric school buses: [The Joint Office's TA helpline](#)
6. For peer-to-peer learning with other school districts: [The Electric School Bus Network](#)
7. For explainers and resources on key ESB topics: [WRI's Electric School Bus Initiative](#)
8. For securing political or community support for your application: [Alliance for Electric School Buses](#)

## CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM GRANTS APPLICATION

### Where can I get help understanding EPA's grants process?

- Check out the [EPA's Grants Manager Training for Applicants and Recipients](#). This online training course is designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of the entire grant life cycle, from preparation of an application through grant closeout.
- [Local Infrastructure Hub](#) also has a Grant Application Bootcamp that can provide small communities with the resources and tools they need to build a robust federal grant application. Registration closes May 31.

### **GET HELP** Where can I get help with registering for SAM.GOV and/or GRANTS.GOV?

- The [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) has [staff](#) and 550+ EPA alumni volunteers who provide [pro bono technical assistance](#) to disadvantaged communities, NGOs, and under-resourced state/local/tribal government agencies. EPN assists in navigating EPA (including registering for [SAM.GOV](#)), regulatory processes, federal policies, grant programs, and publicly available data. If you have any questions or would like assistance, please reach out to Community Outreach Associate, Jamie Zwaschka, at [jamie.zwaschka@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org](mailto:jamie.zwaschka@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org) or 206-819-1182. Alternatively you can reach out to [info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org](mailto:info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org).

### I am/have a grant writer. Where can I find helpful materials for drafting the project narrative or budget for the EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Grants?

- For Section 2 - Environmental Results - Outputs, Outcomes and Performance Measures:
  - Look up if [your state has adopted regulations regarding Clean Truck Standards](#).
  - Look up [your state's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan](#) and see how this could complement that proposal.
  - Look up [the greenhouse gas emissions your project would prevent](#) using the AFLEET Emissions Tool.
  - Describe any other polluting facilities/sites (such as major highways) or factors (such as wildfire smoke) in your community that could be worsening air pollution.
- For Section 3 - Environmental Justice & Disadvantaged Communities:



- Describe how you plan to engage community members in the deployment of your electric school buses.
  - For example, consider how parents and students might be involved in selecting routes or depots for electric school buses and related charging infrastructure.
  - Consider how your school board or school district leadership team might be involved in planning and deployment.
  - Consider how students and educators might use electric school buses as learning or workforce opportunities.
  - Consider how community members will be engaged as the school buses are deployed and their success evaluated.
- For Section 7 - Workforce Development:
  - [Use this checklist from the Department of Transportation](#) to consider how to incorporate strong workforce standards into your project deployment.
  - [Read these resources from Jobs to Move America](#) about the U.S. Employment Plan.
- For Section 8 - Project Resilience to Climate Impacts:
  - Check out the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) for examples of resilience strategies.
  - Check out the [NOAA State Climate Summaries](#) for state-by-state facts on climate change.
  - Use the [Climate Mapping Resilience and Adaptation Tool](#) to understand which hazards are impacting your area.
- For Section 9 - Leveraging Additional External Funds:
  - School districts who purchase an electric school bus and/or charging station may be eligible for new tax credits created by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. These tax credits allow tax-exempt entities, like public school districts, to qualify for the tax credit as a direct payment or transfer or credits. Check out WRI's fact sheet on the [45W Tax Credit for Qualified Commercial Clean Vehicles](#) (up to \$40,000 per electric school bus) and the [30C Tax Credit for Alternative Refueling Property](#) (up to \$100,000 per charger, for low-income or non-urban Census tracts). School districts who receive this tax credit are still eligible to receive funding from the EPA Clean School Bus Program.
  - Here are funding finders that could help you identify state, public-private or utility funding program -- remember that you cannot stack other federal funds with EPA Clean School Bus Program funds:
    - Check out [WRI's Funding and Financing Clearinghouse](#) for state and utility programs.
    - Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center's Federal and State Laws and Incentives finder](#). You can search by category, keyword, or state .
    - Check out the [Electrification Coalition's EV Funding Finder](#). This lists funding programs to purchase or lease light-duty, medium-duty, or heavy-duty vehicles, as well as their charging infrastructure and technical assistance.
  - Investor-owned utilities might have make-ready programs that assist with charging infrastructure. Use [WRI's Make-Ready Programs Guide](#) to learn about these kinds of programs and find which ones are available in your region.



- For Partnership Letters, reach out to a [reach out to a member of the Alliance for Electric School Buses in your state](#) (scroll to the “Where We Work” map). Our members can help you summon political and/or community support for your application and grant proposal.

**GET HELP** I don’t have a grant writer. Where can I get other technical assistance in preparing my grant application?

- The [Department of Energy’s Clean Cities Coalition Network](#) can help school districts learn about electric school buses and connect with [technical assistance opportunities](#), including [help from national lab staff](#). You can also search through the [Contact Directory](#) to find a rep in your state who may have helpful local connections.
- The [Joint Office of Energy and Transportation Technical Assistance Contact Form](#) is responding to school district inquiries. The Joint Office, in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, is providing the following services to school districts: coordinating with electric utilities, identifying available funding and incentives, analyzing charging infrastructure needs, conducting route analysis and planning, conducting training and workforce development, guidance on resiliency, analyzing energy needs and grid impact, and identifying solar and battery storage opportunities.
- The [Department of Energy’s Alternative Fuels Data Center](#) has a number of tools to calculate vehicle emissions, costs, incentives, etc.
- The [EPA and Department of Energy have partnered to establish 17 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers \(EJ TCTACs\)](#) across the country. Each of these 17 TCTACs will receive at least \$10 million to help underserved and overburdened communities access federal funding, providing training and assistance in navigating grant application systems, writing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding. Find out [which TCTAC is in your region](#).
- A few non-profit organizations are providing technical assistance to school districts:
  - WRI’s Electric School Bus Initiative is offering free, independent support to all school districts through Office Hours twice a week. Registration is requested for both [Group Office Hours](#) and [1:1 Appointments](#).
  - The [State Funding Readiness Project \(SFRP\)](#) is an initiative providing free technical assistance and capacity to subnational governments -- primarily states, but also cities, counties, and Tribal governments -- to help unlock and direct more federal funding to equitable climate projects. SFRP delivers responsive support by connecting partners with technical experts working across relevant disciplines, including: transportation electrification, utility policy, grant writing, budget planning, Justice40 and environmental justice, and more. Their team provides surge capacity and tailored 1:1 support to help applicants overcome barriers to effective implementation. SFRP has already assisted with grant applications for the RAISE, Grid Resilience, Charging and Fueling Infrastructure, National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, and Climate Pollution



Reduction Grants programs, among others. Contact SFRP [here](#) to request support or visit their [website](#) for more information.

### **GET HELP Who can I contact with questions about the application process?**

- Questions about applying may be directed to [CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov](mailto:CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov); put “Clean School Bus NOFO Question” in the subject line of your email. To receive an answer, questions must be submitted by Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 11:59pm ET. Due to the competitive nature of the grants program, EPA will not be able to help applicants draft applications. EPA will be able to respond to questions regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about any of the language or provisions in the announcement.
- You can also contact your [Regional EPA Office](#), who has staff dedicated to the Clean School Bus Program, or a local [Clean Cities Coalition](#) in your area.
- You can also reach out to the [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) has [staff](#) and 550+ EPA alumni volunteers who provide [pro bono technical assistance](#) to disadvantaged communities, NGOs, and under-resourced state/local/tribal government agencies. EPN assists in navigating EPA (including registering for [SAM.GOV](#) and [GRANTS.GOV](#)), regulatory processes, federal policies, grant programs, and publicly available data. If you have any questions or would like assistance, please reach out to Community Outreach Associate, Jamie Zwaschka, at [jamie.zwaschka@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org](mailto:jamie.zwaschka@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org) or 206-819-1182. Alternatively you can reach out to [info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org](mailto:info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org).

## **PEER-TO-PEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **GET HELP Where can I talk to other school districts who have electrified?**

- Join the CALSTART and WRI [Electric School Bus Network](#), school district working groups based by EPA region that meet each quarter. You will hear directly from experts as well as other school districts who have adopted electric school buses.
  - [Pacific Regional ESB Working Group](#) (EPA Regions 9 and 10)
  - [Midwest/Mountain Regional ESB Working Group](#) (EPA Regions 5, 7, and 8)
  - [South/Gulf Coast Regional ESB Working Group](#) (EPA Regions 4 and 6)
  - [Northeast/MidAtlantic Regional ESB Working Group](#) (EPA Regions 1, 2, and 3)
  - [California Regional ESB Working Group](#) (California only)
- You can also contact your [Regional EPA office](#), which may have established an electric school bus cohort or call to support school districts.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Where can I find other funding opportunities?**

- School districts who purchase an electric school bus and/or charging station may be eligible for new tax credits created by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. These tax credits allow tax-exempt entities, like public school districts, to qualify for the tax credit as a direct payment or transfer or credits. Check out WRI’s fact sheet on the [45W Tax Credit for Qualified](#)



[Commercial Clean Vehicles](#) (up to \$40,000 per electric school bus) and the [30C Tax Credit for Alternative Refueling Property](#) (up to \$100,000 per charger, for low-income or non-urban Census tracts). Additional information is forthcoming from the Department of the Treasury.

- Check out [WRI's Electric School Bus Funding and Financing Opportunities Clearinghouse](#), which lists available funding opportunities for electric school buses nationally and by state.
- Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center's Federal and State Laws and Incentives finder](#). You can search by category or keyword, by state or nationally.
- Check out the [Electrification Coalition's EV Funding Finder](#). This lists funding programs to purchase or lease light-duty, medium-duty, or heavy-duty vehicles, as well as their charging infrastructure and technical assistance.
- Check out [RMI's IRA Program and Tax Incentive Summary](#). This spreadsheet can be sorted and filtered to identify programs created by the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Check out [This Is Planet Ed and WRI's K12 Education and Climate Provisions in The Inflation Reduction Act](#), which is specific for school districts.

## ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES 101

### Where can I learn more about different electric school buses?

- Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center](#), which has key details on electric school bus types, operation data, case studies and videos.
- Check out [WRI's Electric School Bus U.S. Market Study and Buyer's Guide](#), a comprehensive guide of the electric school bus market and catalog that includes models available today with detailed vehicle specifications.
- Check out [School Transportation News 2023 Buyer's Guide](#), which includes the latest vehicle production data and budget reports, industry trends, and contact information for state, national and federal agencies, manufacturers, dealers, and suppliers.
- Check out [CALSTART's white paper Assessing Technology, Marketing and Manufacturing Readiness](#).

### Where can I learn more about electric school bus procurement?

- Check out this webinar from the [School Superintendents Association, "A to Z: Getting Started with Electric School Bus Purchasing"](#).

### Where can I learn more about how electric school buses perform?

- Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center's "Flipping the Switch" video series](#) on deploying electric school buses. Each video has a corresponding handout.
  - [Electric School Bus Introduction](#)
  - [Working with Electric Utilities](#)
  - [Vehicle Requirements](#)
  - [Charging Infrastructure](#)



- [Infrastructure Planning and Solutions](#)
- [Vehicle In Use Performance](#)
- [Driver and Technician Training](#)
- [Cost Factors](#)
- [More Resources](#)

## ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + BATTERIES

### Where can I learn more about electric school bus batteries?

- Check out RMI's Batteries blog series, starting with [EV Batteries 101](#) and [EV Batteries 101: Supply Chains](#).
- Check out the [Argonne National Laboratory's EV Batteries and Recycling fact sheet](#).

### Where can I learn more about electric school bus battery safety?

- Check out WRI's explainer, [All About Electric School Bus Battery Safety](#).

## ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

### Where can I find resources for rural school districts?

- Check out the [Department of Transportation's Rural EV Toolkit](#).

## ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

### Where can I learn more about engaging with my utility?

- If you don't have the right contact for your utility, check out the [Joint Office's Utility Finder](#) (requires download). This spreadsheet has utility contacts supporting EV charging infrastructure.
- Check out [WRI's Power Planner for Electric School Bus Deployment](#), which lists nine steps school districts can follow or consider when working with their local utility.
- Once you're ready to contact your utility, use the [EPA's Utility Partnership Template](#) to guide your conversations.

### Where can I learn more about electric utility rates for electric school buses?

- Check out this [Clean Cities Coalition webinar on utility rate structure and demand charges](#).

### Where can I learn about charging infrastructure?

- Check out the [Alternative Fuels Data Center's Charging Infrastructure Procurement and Installation guide](#), and [their video on charging infrastructure](#) for electric school buses.
- Check out [VEIC's Electric School Bus Charging Equipment Installation Guide](#).



- Check out [EPA's ENERGY STAR certified chargers](#), which are eligible for Clean School Bus Program funding.
- Check out [Clean Cities Coalition's webinar on Determining Charging Needs and Selecting a Charger](#) and their [webinar on Route Analysis, Range, and Efficiency Considerations](#).
- Check out the [Department of Energy's Managed EV Charging guide](#).
- Check out WRI's [All About Charging Infrastructure Video Series](#).

#### **Where can I get help planning for charging infrastructure?**

- Check out the [Joint Office's Electric School Bus Charging Station Planning Form](#) (requires download).

### **ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + VEHICLE-TO-GRID (V2G)**

#### **Where can I learn more about Vehicle-to-Grid-enabled electric school buses?**

- Check out [WRI's explainer, 3 Considerations for ESB V2G Programs](#).
- Check out the Electrification Coalition's [V2X Implementation Guide and Mutual Aid Agreement Template](#) for Using Vehicle-to-Everything-Enabled Electric School Buses as Mobile Power Units to Enhance Resilience During Emergencies.
- Check out [PIRG's report, Electric School Buses and the Grid](#).

### **ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + EMISSIONS**

#### **Where can I calculate the carbon emissions in my state's electricity grid?**

- Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center's Electricity Sources and Emissions database](#).

### **DEPLOYING ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES**

#### **Where can I get resources for deploying electric school buses?**

- WRI offers a [Step-by-Step Guide for School Bus Electrification](#) that provides considerations and things to do at every stage of the process, as well as a [template Request for Information](#) to share with potential contractors.