



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 Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program](#) 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 and most 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 with any questions or comments.

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TOP RESOURCES FOR HELP

1. For questions on program guidelines: Your [EPA Regional Office](#) or 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 HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE PROGRAM

Where can I get help with registering for SAM.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 or 206-819-1182. Alternatively you can reach out to info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org.

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.

How do I find out if my school district is prioritized for funding?

- You can find [EPA's list of disadvantaged counties here](#). These counties are prioritized for the EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program either because they are in an area of nonattainment or maintenance status for air quality standards, in an area with issues with air toxics, or in a disadvantaged community as defined by federal environmental justice screening tools.

Where can I get technical assistance in preparing my application?

- EPA has a [list of resources for applicants](#).
- The [Joint Office of Energy and Transportation Contact Form](#) offers [technical assistance](#) for school districts transitioning to electric school buses. The Joint Office, in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), 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.



- In February 2024, NREL launched the [Clean Bus Planning Awards](#) that provides technical assistance to transit and school bus fleets to develop comprehensive and customized fleet electrification plans. Fleets applying for federal school bus funds are eligible for technical support; non-competitive applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- The [Department of Energy's Clean Cities and Communities 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 [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 support.
 - 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.
 - The [Center for Transportation and the Environment \(CTE\)](#) is a member-supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that develops, promotes, and implements advanced transportation technologies, vehicles, and fuels that reduce environmental pollution and fossil fuel dependency. CTE has experience with more than 100 zero-emission transit and school bus deployments to date. CTE is [offering](#) application writing support and technical consulting for school districts and school bus operators.



Who can I contact with questions about the application process?

- Questions about applying may be directed to cleanhdvehicle@epa.gov. To receive an answer, questions must be submitted by July 8, 2024.
- You can also contact your [Regional EPA Office](#), 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 or 206-819-1182. Alternatively you can reach out to info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org.

PEER-TO-PEER OPPORTUNITIES

Where can I talk to other school districts who have electrified?

- Join the CALSTART and WRI [Electric School Bus Forum](#), virtual meetings for school districts 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.
- 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 our fact sheet on [New Tax Credits & Direct Pay for School Districts](#).
- 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 WRI Electric School Bus Initiative's [All About Funding and Financing Options for Electric School Buses](#).
- 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 to 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 how much electric school buses cost?

- Check out [WRI's Total Cost of Ownership \(TCO\) Calculator](#).

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"](#).
- Check out [WRI's Price Tracker](#) (requires download) to find what electric school buses have cost in your state or a nearby state. Then check out their [Template Request for Proposals \(RFP\) and Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to get started.
- Check out [Virginia Clean Cities' Electric School Bus Training Connections video series](#).
- Check out [Atlas Public Policy's Fleet Procurement Analysis Tool](#).

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](#)



- Check out [CTE's Considerations for Electric School Bus Adoption](#) report and their [Challenges and Solutions to Electric School Buses Presentation](#).
- You can also read electric school bus case studies and hear from school districts themselves. Check out [WRI's Electric School Bus School District Stories](#), which includes reports on pilot programs in Missouri, North Carolina, Utah, California, Texas, and Virginia. You can also check out [WRI's Electric School Bus Dataset](#) to see exactly where electric school buses are located in the United States, including in your state.

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](#).
- Check out [WRI's How to Ensure a Sustainable Future for Electric School Bus Batteries](#).

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. WRI also partnered with [VEIC on Working With Your Utility to Electrify Your School Bus Fleet](#).
- 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 Developing Infrastructure to Charge Electric Vehicles](#) guide, their [Charging Infrastructure Procurement and Installation guide](#), and [their video on charging infrastructure](#) for electric school buses.
- Check out [EPA's ENERGY STAR certified chargers](#), which are eligible for Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle 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).
- Check out [VEIC's Electric School Bus Charging Station Planning Considerations](#) and [Electric School Bus Facility Assessment Guide](#).
- Find out what kind of impact your electric school buses could have on the electrical grid with [WRI's Electric Vehicles on the Grid Simulator](#), or learn [All About Working with Your Electric Utility](#).

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](#) and [All About Managed Charging and "Vehicle-to-Everything" or V2X](#).
- 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](#), or the [Heavy-Duty Vehicle Emissions Calculator](#).



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 (such as this [Template Roadmap](#)), as well as a [template Request for Information](#) to share with potential contractors.