

Questions and Answers #3

Update February 13, 2014

Kansas Clean Diesel

DERA State II, Round 2

Here are questions and answers for inquiries submitted to KDHE about the new diesel emissions grant. The most recent inquiries are answered first. Please contact [KDHE](#) if you have additional questions.

New deadlines for application submittal and notification of schools.

Q. Has the deadline for grant submittal been extended?

A. Yes, since recent snowstorms caused schools and businesses to close across much of Kansas, KDHE has extended the grant deadline dates. The new deadline for the paper application to be received by KDHE is now 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2014. Schools will be notified whether or not they have been selected for a grant award by March 11, 2014.

Schools that rent their fleet buses from a private company.

Q. Our school rents our buses from a private company. Can we still apply for this grant?

A. No, a school must own its own bus fleet to be eligible to apply for this grant. The goal is to assist school districts in improving fleet buses they own.

Privately-owned school bus companies.

Q: Are bus project applications from private school bus companies eligible?

A: No, the only school bus project applications that are eligible are from school districts that own the project bus or buses.

Fleet information sheet of the application.

Q. On the application worksheet, do we need to list all buses owned by the district or just the one we would replace if we are selected for this grant?

A. Please provide details about the older bus to be replaced or any buses that would receive fuel operated heaters as part of this grant. You do not need to list any other buses that would not be affected by this grant.

Fleet improvement

Q. What should we provide in the "fleet improvement" column of the spreadsheet?

A. That item is asking for your description of what will be the result to your fleet due to this grant award. An example could be "one new bus purchased and fuel operated heaters installed on three older buses."

What is needed in reporting "annual mileage" in the Excel fleet information sheet?

Q. In the fleet information tab of the application it asks for annual mileage. Does that mean for our old bus or the new bus?

A. On the application form, the fleet information sheet is asking about the old bus your school would remove from your active fleet, and which would be replaced by the new bus. We will use the information you will provide on the sheet to estimate the reduction in diesel emissions from the new bus with the fuel operated heater installed compared with the emissions from the old bus.

Annual idling hours

Q. What is meant by "Annual idling hours reduced" on the spreadsheet?

A. The annual idling hour reduction would be the number of hours your older bus now idles in a year less the number of hours you would expect the new bus to idle. If you are adding a fuel operated heater to an older bus, please estimate the reduction in idling time you expect that bus to require after the installation. The purpose of a fuel operated heater is to provide heat to the bus main engine and interior and eliminate long idling times for warming up and for sitting waiting for students.

The cost of fuel operated heaters given in the example calculations in the request for proposals doesn't seem correct.

Q. I noticed on the examples provided that the price for the heaters and installation was only \$2,400. That figure for heaters seems to be like too low.

A. That dollar amount was given as a potential estimate to use in calculating project costs. Each school must verify with their dealer what the individual heaters will cost. Keep in mind that the heaters to be installed must be on the EPA approved technology list, as referred to in the RFP.

What about the year of the new bus.

Q. Must the new bus be a 2014 model?

A. The new bus can be from either the 2014 or 2013 model year. The engine must meet the 2011 EPA diesel emissions standards.

Number of schools to receive awards for this grant round

Q. About how many awards might be awarded for this new 2013-2014 clean diesel competition?

A. We anticipate making three to five awards. We will give awards to as many schools as possible, within the parameters of the award requirements.

Are some Kansas counties not on the list for this new diesel grant for school buses?

Q. Our school is interested in applying for this grant, but we are not located in one of the counties listed in the announcement.

A. Only the counties included in the Kansas City and Wichita metropolitan areas are eligible for this grant. Because of the smaller amount of funding KDHE received from the EPA for this grant, KDHE decided to limit those resources to areas in the state with highest air quality concerns. In previous grant rounds that included larger funding amounts, KDHE was able to extend the grant openings to include schools in counties that are in areas of less concern for elevated pollution levels.

Can we use grant money to pay for a bus we have already ordered?

Q. We have recently ordered a new bus. If our application were to be selected, could we use the grant money to help purchase that bus?

A. No, your district's bus that you have already ordered would not be eligible for this grant funding. One of the goals of the grant is to remove older buses that are still being actively used, and replace them with new, less-polluting vehicles. It is a requirement of the grant program that the new bus cannot be ordered until the contract between KDHE and the school is final. If you have older buses still in use you could apply to replace one of them or to install fuel operated heaters on them.

A fuel operated heater was recently installed on the old bus we would take out of service.

Q. Can we transfer a heater from the bus to be destroyed to the new bus we would buy with this grant money?

A. Yes, you can remove the heater from the old bus that is being replaced and install it on the new bus you would buy or on another bus in your fleet.

Idle reduction technology.

Q. What is the anti-idling technology?

A. The idle-reduction technology that this grant would pay for refers to diesel-powered auxiliary heaters that can be used to reduce the amount of time the main engine spends idling, such as when warming the bus. Open this link for information about this technology.

<http://www.epa.gov/smartway/forpartners/technology.htm>

Open the Idling Reduction tab near the top of the page, click on the line "Fuel Operated Heaters (FOH) aka Direct Fired Heaters (DFH)" and scroll down to the section "The following FOHs are SmartWay verified for school buses." Open that link for a list of the brands of heaters that have been EPA-approved for use in this grant.

Incomplete Application

Q. What if the application we submit does not have all the questions completely answered?

A. It is important that you provide all the requested information so your project can be fairly compared with those from other school districts. You are encouraged to thoroughly read over your application prior to submitting it.

Vehicle Replacement

Q. We have an old bus that we will get rid of because it exceeds the 25 year age limit for school buses. Can we buy a new bus to replace it using money from this grant?

A. No, the grant money must be used to help replace an older bus that otherwise would remain in active, daily use for at least three more years. A bus that is currently scheduled for retirement within three years would not be eligible to be replaced with these funds. The grant will pay up to 25% of the cost of the new school bus that is replacing a currently-used, older bus. The grant will not pay for a new vehicle that is not a replacement for an old vehicle, or for a vehicle purchased as part of scheduled fleet replacement.

Verified technologies

Q. What are approved or verified technologies?

A. The Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board test and certify diesel emission reduction technologies and specific product brands. Grant funding is available only for use of those developments that have been approved. A list of verified fuel operated heaters can be found by visiting the following website:

<http://www.epa.gov/smartway/forpartners/technology.htm>. Open the tab "idle reduction."

Activate the line about fuel operated heaters and scroll down to the section pertaining to heaters for school buses.