



Ventura County  
Air Pollution  
Control District

# LOWER EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the Lower Emission School Bus Program?**

In 2001, \$50 million was allocated by the State of California to reduce the exposure of school children to toxic diesel particulate matter. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) created the Lower Emission School Bus Program (LESBP) to implement the intent of the authorizing legislation. This initial funding allowed the purchase of roughly 350 new diesel or natural gas-powered buses and the installation 2,000 particulate filters for existing diesel school buses. Beginning January 1, 2012, the LESBP was expanded to include funding for the replacement of compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel tanks on school buses using vehicle registration fees which is implemented by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (District).

### **Why is funding replacement of CNG tanks on school buses important?**

CNG tanks have a shorter lifespan than the bus's full lifespan and require replacement to keep the bus in operation. A typical school bus operates for 25 years or more and will require the replacement of the CNG tanks, which typically only have a 15-year lifespan, to continue to be utilized. By funding this maintenance, it allows the school district to continue reducing school children's exposure to both cancer-causing and smog-forming pollution generated by diesel-powered school buses.

### **What projects are eligible?**

The LESBP can offer up to \$20,000 per bus towards the replacement of soon-to-be expired CNG tanks. This program is designed to extend the life of CNG-powered school buses with model years at least 14 years old which are owned by the school district. Funds are only available for the replacement of expiring equipment including the installation cost.

### **When should our school district apply?**

It is strongly encouraged that the school districts to apply for funding at least four months before the tanks expire to allow for the application review and approval process to be completed before the bus is no longer able to operate safely.

### **How do I apply?**

Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To find out if funds are available, you may contact Danny McQuillan at 805-645-1432 or [danny@vcapcd.org](mailto:danny@vcapcd.org). LESBP application forms are available at [www.vcapcd.org/pubs/bus-application.pdf](http://www.vcapcd.org/pubs/bus-application.pdf).

An application package shall include (for each bus requiring new tanks):

1. A completed Grant Application Form for the School Bus CNG Tank Replacement Grant Program
2. A copy of the California Highway Patrol Safety Certification (CHP form 292)
3. A copy of DMV registration
4. Resolution from the school district's governing board, or authorized official with authority to make financial decisions, authorizing the submittal of the application
5. Dated and itemized dealer quote for the replacement CNG tanks and installation costs

Please submit all complete applications to [danny@vcapcd.org](mailto:danny@vcapcd.org) for review and processing.

### **Still have questions?**

Contact Danny McQuillan by email at [danny@vcapcd.org](mailto:danny@vcapcd.org) or by phone at (805) 645-1432