

**Mid-Atlantic Electric School Bus Experience Project Short-term Demonstration:
School Transportation Providers, Request for Qualifications**

Project Overview

The Mid-Atlantic Electric School Bus Experience Project (MEEP) will provide schools with an introduction to electric school bus technology. Available to select Districts in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the District of Columbia, the project is supported in large part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The project will provide a wide range of stakeholders with needed information about electric school buses, allow school districts to gain experience with electric school buses from multiple manufacturers, evaluate vehicle performance (including comparison to baseline conventional fuel buses), and provide findings that can be used by both participating school districts and others to make intelligent decisions about incorporating advanced fuel technologies into their fleets.

The main components of the Electric School Bus Experience are to:

- Support school districts to plan for and execute a demonstration deployment including identification of appropriate routes and charging strategies to temporarily support the vehicle;
- Engage stakeholders to build awareness of electric school buses and educate them about the partnerships and activities needed to support deployment;
- Train staff to operate the vehicle and collect data on vehicle performance, and;
- Collect and analyze data throughout the experience to evaluate each experience and the project overall, as well as generate information for future decisions.

MEEP Team Members include:

Virginia Clean Cities at James Madison University (lead), Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition, Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation, Maryland Clean Cities, New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition, VEIC, National Association for Pupil Transportation, Al Pollard of the Energy Foundation, Generation 180, Bus Manufacturers (Thomas Built / Blue Bird/and potentially others), State Air Quality Agencies (VA DEQ / MDE / NJ DEP) and Regional Electric Utilities (Dominion Energy / BGE / PEPCO / PECO).

School Participation

In this project, demonstration electric buses from major manufacturers will be deployed by selected school districts (School Partners). The MEEP team will work with individual districts to customize the deployment term and details based on vehicle availability, district preference, etc. School Partners may include school districts, schools, or supervisory unions. For school entities utilizing transportation contractors, the school bus contractor may apply directly and note the district(s) where they intend to utilize the demonstration bus. The MEEP Team is interested in working with at least one school entity per state/region over the three-year term of the project, and may consider additional entities per state/region if future schedules allow.

Consideration Priority

School Partners that can demonstrate the following will be given priority for participating in the project:

- Strong operational candidates for electric bus adoption and an expressed interest in permanently adding battery electric school buses into their fleets;
- Operating in the service areas of utilities cooperating in the project;
- Diversity of operating environments that can be supported by electric buses to test a range of conditions that may impact vehicle performance;
- Those who show increased schedule flexibility, such as those capable of operating buses in the summer and during school breaks to help with additional data collection and scheduling of deployments with electric school bus manufacturers.

The project team will also consider geographic diversity (urban, rural, suburban), environmental justice status, and air quality data to support selection of school districts and ensure a variety of communities that can benefit from electric school bus adoption are exposed to the technology.

Request for Qualifications

Virginia Clean Cities at James Madison University, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition, Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation, Maryland Clean Cities, and New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition are each seeking qualifications from prospective School Partners within their respective states/regions.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is intended to determine basic eligibility and level of commitment in order to select School Partners. Recognizing that this technology will be new to many potential applicants, Clean Cities coordinators from your state/region are available to support you through this process. **If you are interested but unsure of your eligibility, please reach out and we will be happy to help.**

Submission Details

Interested candidates should respond to the following questions under the Request for Qualifications heading below. These questions will help determine your eligibility and will provide our team information to help support your demonstration and provide information on electric school buses and charging based on your specific needs.

Responses are being accepted on a rolling basis and must be submitted electronically to the Clean Cities Coordinator of your state/region (below). **Strong interest is expected and spots are limited so interested fleets should apply as soon as possible.**

Email subject line should read: MEEP_RFQ_School (or Contractor) Name

In you need assistance or have any questions, please contact your state/region's Clean Cities coordinator (contact info below):

<u>State/Region</u>	<u>Clean Cities Coalition</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
Virginia	Virginia Clean Cities	Sarah Stalcup-Jones	sstalcupjones@vacleancities.org ; 540-212-4143
District of Columbia and its Maryland and VA suburbs	Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition	Antoine Thompson	antoinethompson@gwrccc.org ; 716-308-0945
Pennsylvania	Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation	Tony Bandiero	tfbandiero@ep-act.org ; 215-990-8200
Maryland	Maryland Clean Cities	Mike Jones	michael.jones1@maryland.gov ; 410-537-4071
New Jersey	New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition	Chuck Feinberg	cfeinberg@gbdtoday.com ; 973-886-1655

Request for Qualifications

School District

School District:	
School Bus Contractor name (if applicable):	
Contact person, position,	
Phone number and email:	
Street address:	
City / Town:	
Number of students transported by current school bus fleet:	

Existing Bus Service

What is the maximum number of school buses in service each day (school district operated and/or contracted)?	
How many bus routes do you operate/contract daily?	
What is the distance (miles) of your average route?	
What is the distance (miles) of the shortest daily bus route in your network?	
What is the distance (miles) of the longest daily bus route in your network?	
Do you have a route that you would like to be taken on a test drive (no students) during your demonstration? If so, how long is it (miles) what type of terrain is it (hilly, flat, highway, rural, etc....)	
How long are your buses typically parked between morning and afternoon shifts?	
Do any of your routes include highway travel?	
Are your buses used for any purpose other than student transportation to and from school? If yes, please describe.	
Who operates your buses?	
Who owns and maintains your buses?	
Where are buses typically parked overnight? Are they in a covered facility?	
Are buses stored close to electric power access?	

Does the school district have any existing Level 2 electric vehicle chargers on site that could be used to charge buses? If yes, how many?	
Are there public or private Level 2 electric vehicle chargers nearby that could be used to charge buses? If yes, how many? Location?	
What types of buses do you currently operate? Provide numbers of Type A, Type C, Type D.	
What vehicle manufacturers are included in your fleet? Do you have a preferred manufacturer and local dealer?	
Is your current school bus insurance policy able to cover the short-term use of a demo bus? Please explain.	

Additional Questions

Please list your availability to receive a demonstration at this time. Do you have specific schedule limitations or preferences?

Has your school district been selected for other electric school bus pilot projects and/or has it received funding for electric school bus purchases? If yes, please explain.

What utility provides electrical service where the demonstration bus would be charged?

Ability to Support Demonstration

The MEEP Team will support School Partners before, during and after the demo period, helping to facilitate the process and providing technical assistance, including staff training to support operations and data collection.

Additional Information

Please use the next page to share any other information or materials that you would like us to consider as we evaluate your interest in the electric school bus experience project (below or attached). As noted above, the **MEEP Team is available to support you through this proposal process. Please reach out with any questions or to request support.**