



June 2022 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- [Resilient Virginia Spring 2022 Resiliency Academy](#), 6/9 at 1 PM
- [Planning for Clean Pupil Transportation Webinar](#), 6/14 at 1 PM
- [How to Apply for EPA Clean School Bus Funding Webinar](#), 6/21 at 2 PM

Click the events for more info!

EPA Clean School Bus Program: \$500 Million for Clean School Buses!



\$500 million for clean school buses

Applications open now until August 19

epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 authorizes EPA to offer rebates to replace **existing school buses** with clean and zero-emission (ZE) models. The 2022 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebates process includes SAM.gov account registration, application submission, review and selection by EPA, purchase order submission and request for payment, payment receipt, new bus delivery and old bus replacement, and close out. The program guidance and application process differ from prior EPA school bus rebate programs in many ways, so please review the summary of program requirements below and the detailed Program Guide before proceeding.

The following entities are eligible to apply for EPA school bus rebates:

- State and local governmental entities that provide bus service
 - Public school districts, including charter schools, with an **NCES District ID** are eligible to apply directly for funding.
 - Most State governmental entities would not be eligible to apply, but some, like South Carolina, own bus fleets and would be eligible.
- Eligible contractors – Eligible contractors are for-profit, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entities that have the capacity to (1) sell clean or ZE school buses or related charging or fueling infrastructure to school bus owners or (2) arrange financing for such a sale.
 - School bus dealers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that meet these criteria are eligible contractors.
- Nonprofit school transportation associations
- Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or tribally controlled schools responsible for the purchase of school buses or providing school bus service for a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded school

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Planning for Clean Pupil Transportation Webinar

Join us on June 14th at 1:00 PM EST for an informational webinar on what to consider when preparing for electric school buses.

With an influx of funding opportunities for electric school buses, we want to make sure that folks are up to speed as they begin to consider electrifying their school bus fleet. We will be hearing from experts in fleet and school bus electrification as well as a school district who has first hand experience operating electric school buses in their fleet.

Our speakers will include:

- Chuck Feinberg, Executive Director, New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition
- Howard Harris, Jr., Sr. Consultant, Clean Transportation, VEIC
- Claire Alford, Associate, Market Development, Highland

How to Apply for EPA Clean School Bus Funding Webinar

TEP is hosting a webinar on June 21st with a great lineup of speakers, including two EPA staff who will talk about how to apply for clean school bus rebates, and three school transportation experts who will share how their districts have benefitted from propane, electric, and natural gas school buses.

The webinar is for school transportation and local government representatives broadly, but are hoping to reach rural school districts, especially in our target states.

Speakers will include:

- Faye Swift, Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program Grants and Policy Team Leader, EPA
- Clayton Batko, Outreach and Regional Coordination Lead, Clean School Bus Program, EPA

- Albert Burleigh, Executive Director, EV Business Development, Blue Bird
- Deborah Coles, Director of Transportation, Safety, and Security, Louisa County VA Public Schools

Register Below and we hope to see you there!

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- Deborah Coles, Director of Transportation, Safety, and Security, Louisa County Public Schools (VA)
- Paul Bergera, Director of Transportation, Jordan School District (UT)
- Joel Stutheit, Director of Transportation, Bethel School District (WA)

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DOE Announces \$59 Million to Expand Biofuels Production and Decarbonize Transportation Sector



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced \$59 million to accelerate the production of biofuels and bioproducts to reduce emissions in hard-to-decarbonize sectors and create good-paying jobs in rural America. DOE is focused on applied research, development, and deployment to improve the performance and reduce the cost of biofuel production technologies and scale-up production systems in partnership with industry. By reducing costs and technical risks, these efforts can help pave the way for the biofuels industry to deploy commercial-scale integrated biorefineries. The breakthroughs from this funding will support President Biden's and DOE's goals of advancing the use of bioenergy, achieving cost-competitive biofuels, and reaching a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.

"Energy harnessed from plants and waste presents a huge opportunity to reduce emissions from hard-to-decarbonize sectors such as aviation, rail, and shipping, while supporting high-quality jobs across rural America," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. "DOE's investment in biofuels is a key component of the Biden Administration's effort to support clean energy technologies that increase our energy independence and move us closer to a net-zero carbon economy."

Marine and aviation sectors require higher energy densities to avoid frequent stops to refuel for long flights, international shipping routes, and cross-country rail routes, making these industries hard to decarbonize. Electrification is currently unable to meet these requirements, but sustainable, energy-dense, liquid biofuels are becoming a strong alternative to address these needs.

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University of Virginia Transit Services Beginning to go Electric with New Buses



The University of Virginia announced that it is beginning to transition its transit fleet from diesel power to a more sustainable alternative with the purchase of four new battery electric buses. Delivery of the new zero-emission buses, manufactured by Proterra, is expected in summer or fall 2023.

University Transit Service, operated by UVA's Department of Parking and Transportation, currently has about 40 buses in its fleet. Parking and Transportation staff began in-depth research of electric buses in fall 2020. With a life cycle of 12 to 15 years for each bus, the team understood that every future bus purchase would present an opportunity to advance the goals of the University's Sustainability Plan.

UVA's Facilities Management department has led the way for electric vehicles on Grounds. Since 2019, it has been designated with a Sustainable Fleet Accreditation by the National Association of Fleet Administrators and Calstart, becoming the only university fleet in Virginia to earn this designation and one of

Drive Clean Rural VA: USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program



When it comes to transitioning a fleet to alternative fuels, the upfront costs of the vehicles and infrastructure can be a barrier, especially for rural and small communities that do not have large annual budgets. The lower prices of alternative fuels and their reduced maintenance costs make the total cost of ownership for alternative fuel vehicles lower than their petroleum-powered counterparts. However, these cost savings do not kick in for fleets until they have been operating the vehicles. Grants or low-interest loans, such as those offered by the USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program can be a great way to reduce the upfront costs that fleets will bare as they wait for the cost savings for the alternative fuels to begin accumulating.

On April 19th, 2021 Virginia Clean Cities was joined by RD Virginia State Director, Perry Hickman, and Community Programs Specialist, Barabara Hodges, of USDA Rural Development to discuss the USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program. This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and can be a great way for rural fleets to transition

only six in the nation.

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to alternative fuels!

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JMU Issues Rideable Contracts for EV Chargers

In a pioneering effort for the Commonwealth of Virginia, James Madison University has issued contracts for electric vehicle service equipment (EVSE). Five state contracts are now live on JMU's **contract management system**. These contracts allow other public universities, state agencies and local governments to purchase EVSE through the rideable (or cooperative) contracts.

The five contracts with pricing and technical specifications can be viewed online **here**. Both Level 2 charging and direct current fast charging (DCFC) options are available in the contracts.

Several of the vendors on contract are either small businesses or minority-owned. The selected vendor contracts can be viewed below.

- **Autoflex, Inc. (contract # UCPJMU6203)**
- **Bethel Electric Construction Company (contract # UCPJMU6204)**
- **Independent Lighting (contract # UCPJMU6206)**
- **NovaCHARGE, Inc. (contract # UCPJMU6205)**
- **OpConnect, Inc. (contract # UCPJMU6207)**

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Check out Virginia Clean Cities' Online Store



Virginia Clean Cities is excited to announce the launch of its new online store!

We only have a few designs on there at the moment, but be sure to check back in the coming months for more alternative fuel, electric vehicle, and Virginia Clean Cities merch!

Big thanks to our partners at **Bonfire** for helping us with our initial designs and getting us set up online!

Consider highlighting products or services, sales or promotions, personal bios, and more. Use images that complement your message, and link your images to supporting resources.

[VISIT STORE](#)

New and Returning Members!



New Coalition Level Member!

New Coalition Level Member!

Interested in becoming a Virginia Clean Cities Member? Check out our membership page [here](#) or [contact us](#) with any questions!

Already a VCC member? Send us an [email](#) with any late breaking news or announcements that you want featured in next months newsletter!

Virginia Clean Cities

