

Maine Clean School Bus News

EPA funding announced; upcoming webinar on rural bus electrification (Nov 29)



We are thrilled that [the EPA has funded 13 Maine school bus electrification projects](#), totaling 34 electric school buses, as part of their first round of grant funding! Maine received the 4th most funding per capita nationally. Strong applicant showing, especially from rural and underserved communities, led to the EPA nearly doubling the available funding for this round of grants.

If you applied but did not receive an award from this funding lottery, don't worry! We expect another round of federal funding next year and for each of the subsequent 3 years. And the [Maine Clean School Bus Program](#) will be ready to assist you in making your next application a success.

The Maine Clean School Bus Program can provide technical assistance to any school to pursue federal funding for electric buses. Are you potentially interested in applying (or reapplying) to the next US EPA Clean School Bus funding opportunity? Please complete this [brief survey](#) so we can understand what information you may need to advance an electric school bus project.

Rural electrification

Rural school transportation is often more challenging to electrify compared to urban or suburban service. Longer distances, a higher percentage of students requiring busing, harsher winters, and higher operating speeds all put greater strain on buses, budgets, and maintenance staff. Despite these challenges, electric school buses can provide the same or better performance as diesel buses while reducing operational cost. Different approaches need to be taken to overcome the unique operating challenges of rural routes when implementing electric school buses.

To document these different approaches -- and the benefits of rural school bus electrification -- we have gathered information from the first rural deployment of an electric school bus in Maine, on Mount Desert Island. Check out the [case study here!](#)

We will also be holding a webinar and Q&A to go in-depth on rural electric school bus deployment. We will take a deep dive into challenges specific to rural Maine, cover the big takeaways of the MDI case study, and address the common questions we are hearing from rural Maine school bus operators. See below for registration information:

Rural School Bus Electrification

Tuesday, November 29

10AM-11AM

[Register here](#) to receive a zoom link

Technical resources available

Are you one of the districts that received funding from the EPA? Do you need technical assistance implementing your project? Many school bus vendors offer services that are provided free of charge or can be rolled into the final invoice for the bus. Technical assistance from the vendor is an eligible expense for EPA funding.

[Here are the technical offerings](#) from some electric bus vendors. We will keep this resource up to date as we receive more information.

Don't see your vendor? Ask your sales representative if they offer technical assistance or [fill out this brief survey](#) to let the Maine Clean School Bus Program know you'd like more information.