

# Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

## Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

### All-Electric School Buses

April 24, 2024

	<b>Data Field</b>	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
2.	Agency Contact:	Darwin Burkhart at <a href="mailto:epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov">epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov</a>
3.	Announcement Type:	Initial Announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	24-1697-06
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Driving a Cleaner Illinois – Volkswagen
7.	CSFA Number:	532-10-1697
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	Driving A Cleaner Illinois - Volkswagen
9.	CFDA Number:	N/A
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	Approximately 60 school buses
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$17,700,000 (Round Six Funding for all three priority areas)
12.	Award Range:	Minimum award amount \$200,000
13.	Source of Funding:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal Pass-Through <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private/Other Funding
14.	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	Yes
15.	Indirect Costs Allowed:	No
16.	Posted Date:	April 24, 2024
17.	Application Range:	April 24, 2024 until funding is depleted
18.	Technical Assistance Session:	No

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)  
All-Electric School Buses**

**A. Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application Information**

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to inform potential applicants of the availability of funds from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement (Trust or Trust Agreement). Under this NOFO, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA or Agency) will fund a portion of the eligible costs associated with the replacement (not repower) of existing diesel school buses with new all-electric school buses located and operated in any of the three priority areas outlined in the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP) and in this NOFO. In addition to providing funding for new all-electric school buses, Illinois EPA will also fund a portion of necessary new electric charging equipment if charging infrastructure is needed.

**Each application under this NOFO must include:**

- One (1) Uniform Grant Application.
- One (1) General Application Form.
- A New All-Electric School Bus Application Form for each proposed new all-electric school bus (e.g., if application is for 3 electric school buses, then 3 forms will need to be included)
- An Infrastructure Form - if funding for charging equipment infrastructure is necessary, provide a separate form for each requested new charging equipment infrastructure location needed to charge the proposed electric school buses (e.g., if charging equipment is needed at 2 separate locations, then 2 forms will need to be included)
- One (1) Uniform Grant Budget Template.

**A school district can only be addressed by one application.**

- Applications must be complete; applicants must use the above referenced forms.
- Application forms must be signed by an authorized person on behalf of the applicant.

**An application must be submitted electronically to [epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov).**

**There is no set deadline to submit an application. Applications will be accepted until funding is depleted. See the Driving a Cleaner Illinois website for announcements regarding funding availability.**

**Incomplete applications or applications not on the requisite forms will be denied.**

Any questions must be in writing and directed to [epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov).

In completing projects under this NOFO, applicants must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances and regulations thereunder.

The State of Illinois is not obligated to make an award as a result of this NOFO.

**B. Funding Information**

Funding is private monies under the Trust for State Beneficiaries established by Volkswagen.

This funding opportunity is consistent with the Trust Agreement and the Agency's existing BMP under the Trust. Illinois is a beneficiary, and the Illinois EPA has been designated the lead agency to administer the funds allocated to Illinois under the Trust Agreement.

Applicants may not use Trust funds to satisfy obligations that are mandated by law or regulation, by any court order or decree, or by other agreement of any kind to acquire electric school buses.

Applicants may not combine funding from this program with other funding such that they receive in excess of 100% funding for any project.

Applicants may use other funding (federal, state, or other) as part or all of their mandatory cost share, provided such other funding source does not place a restriction on this.

### C. GATA Requirements

The Illinois EPA is required by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) to conduct a risk assessment of the applicant. Additional information may be required at that time from the successful applicant.

### D. Eligibility Requirements

The Illinois EPA will accept applications:

- For new all-electric Class 4-8 school buses and any necessary charging infrastructure.
- From a school district or a commercial school bus provider on behalf of a school district, where the school district or the commercial school bus provider on the district's behalf owns the school buses, and the school buses are operated in the school district located in the following priority areas:
  - Priority Area 1:** Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties, Oswego Township in Kendall County and Aux Sable and Goose Lake townships in Grundy County
  - Priority Area 2:** Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties
  - Priority Area 3:** Champaign, DeKalb, LaSalle, McLean, Peoria, Sangamon, and Winnebago counties
- From entities that will own the new all-electric school buses and new charging infrastructure (entities that lease their buses are ineligible to be the applicant as the owner of the buses must be the applicant).
- Where each existing diesel school bus to be replaced has been in operation at least 80% of its annual operational hours in 2021, 2022, and 2023 in the same county/counties as the school district that the new all-electric school bus will serve.
- Where each existing diesel school bus is operational at the time the application is submitted.
  - Each existing bus must be engine Model Year (MY) 2009 or older and be a diesel-powered Class 4-8 school bus.
  - Each existing bus must be scrapped within 90 days of the new electric school bus being placed into service.
- **Important Note:** For this VW Round 6 NOFO, in the event the applicant does not currently own eligible existing diesel school buses to replace and scrap in order to acquire new electric school buses, the applicant may acquire eligible existing diesel school buses from another school district/commercial school bus provider in which the bus is still in operation in serving a school district and has at least 80% of its annual operational hours in 2021, 2022, and 2023 in the same county/counties as the applicant. In this case, the applicant must also obtain from the previous owner the information requested in Section Two of the application form for each bus.
- Where each new electric school bus will operate within the school district at least 80% of its annual operating hours for at least five years from its in-service date.
- Where each new electric school bus must be from the engine Model Year in which the project occurs (or later) or one engine model year prior.

- That satisfies qualification requirements through the GATA Grantee Portal at [www.grants.illinois.gov](http://www.grants.illinois.gov) prior to being offered an award.
- GATA qualification requirements prior to receiving a Notice of State Award include:
  - Possession of a valid Unique Entity ID (UEI) from the System for Award Management ([www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov)).
  - Current and valid registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) ([www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov)).
  - Approved FY 2025 or more current year Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ).
  - In good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State.
  - Not currently debarred by the State of Illinois and/or federal government.
  - Not on the Federal Excluded Parties List.
  - Not on the Illinois Stop Payment List.
  - Not on the sanctioned party list of the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services.
  - Not on the SAM.gov exclusion list.

## **E. Eligible and Ineligible Costs for Reimbursement**

### Eligible Costs

- The base price of the new Class 4-8 all-electric school bus.
- Electric charging infrastructure if necessary to support the project.

### Ineligible Costs

- Options, add-ons, upgrades, taxes, title, license, and unrelated items related to the purchase of the new bus.
- Infrastructure if it is already available and adequate to support the new all-electric school bus.
- Options, other equipment, labor, taxes, other fees, or make-ready improvements related to the purchase and installation of the charging infrastructure.
- Cost to scrap the existing diesel school bus.
- Applicant’s administrative costs.
- Incurred costs prior to the execution date of the grant agreement.
- Indirect costs.

## **F. Award Amount**

- The grant award for a “government applicant” is 75% of the eligible cost per electric school bus and necessary charging equipment infrastructure.
- The grant award for a “non-government applicant” is 50% of the eligible cost per electric school bus and necessary charging equipment infrastructure.
- Non-government applicants that are under contract with a public school district will be considered a “government applicant” and afforded treatment as a government applicant.
- In-kind contributions are not acceptable for meeting the required cost share.

*“Government applicant” means a State or local government agency (including a school district, municipality, city, county, special district, transit district, joint powers authority, or port authority, owning fleets purchased with government funds), and a tribal government or native village.*

## G. Application Review and Selection

All applications will be reviewed by Illinois EPA for administrative completeness and against criteria identified in this NOFO, in compliance with GATA and 2 CFR 200 Uniform Requirements.

The administrative completeness review assesses whether the requirements in this NOFO, as further addressed in the application forms, have been met. The application will be denied if any requirements are not met as required in this NOFO or the related forms. **Failure to satisfy eligibility requirements, or to use or to fully and appropriately complete the forms, will result in a denial of the application.**

Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed and selected on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding is depleted.

**Each New All-Electric School Bus Application Form must identify a school within the school district to be served by the proposed new all-electric school bus.** Each New All-Electric School Bus Application Form must identify the percentage of minority and low-income students from the previous academic school year for the identified school that meet Illinois State Board of Education criteria for minority and low-income status. The selection of a school with a greater or highest percentage is requested. Applicants must provide a single percentage that encompasses both minority and low-income students. Applicants should not provide separate percentages. Students should not be counted twice. The State Board of Education considers low-income students to be students ages 3 to 17 that receive or live in households that receive public aid from SNAP or TANF; are classified as homeless, migrant runaway, Head Start, or foster children; or live in a household where the household income meets USDA guidelines to receive free or reduced-priced meals. A minority student is a student considered to be non-white.

The email date and timestamp will determine the order in which applications are to be selected in the event there is insufficient funding to select all eligible applications received on the same day.

### Treatment of Cost Sharing

Cost-sharing is mandatory under this program but will not be considered in any other way in the application evaluation.

### Agency Review and Error Correction

If the Agency determines that an applicant incorrectly calculated or indicated the project cost, applicant cost-share, and/or total funding request based on the applicable cost estimate, required cost shares, or eligible costs, and the Agency can correct the error, the application will not adversely affect completeness. If the applicant is selected for a grant, the Agency will contact the applicant and request a decision from the applicant as to whether it will accept the award based on the Agency's determination of the project cost, applicant cost-share, and/or total funding requested.

### Appeal Process

An appeal for a denied application is available to applicants but is limited to the evaluation process. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the following address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program #40  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Appeals must be received within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published by the Illinois EPA to [grants.illinois.gov](https://grants.illinois.gov). The written appeal should include at a minimum the following: the name and address of the appealing party, identification of the grant, and a statement of reasons for the appeal. The Agency will acknowledge receipt of an appeal within 14 calendar days from the date the appeal was received. When an appeal is received, the execution of all grant agreements that the Illinois EPA intends to make under this NOFO shall be stayed until the appeal is resolved, unless the Illinois EPA determines the needs of the State require moving forward with execution of the grant agreements. The State need determination and rationale shall be documented in writing.

The Agency will respond to the appeal within 60 days or supply a written explanation to the appealing party as to why additional time is required. The appealing party must supply any additional information requested by the Illinois EPA within the time period set in the request. The Illinois EPA will resolve the appeal by means of written determination, which shall include, but not be limited to, review of the appeal, appeal determination, and rationale for the determination.

## **H. Award Administration Information**

### **Notice of State Award**

Each successful applicant will receive a Notice of State Award (“NOSA”), which specifies the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from pre-award risk assessments. The NOSA will be distributed through the Grantee Portal; it must be accepted through the Portal before a Grant Agreement can be sent to the applicant.

**A NOSA is NOT an authorization to begin project activities and incur costs.**

**No costs can be incurred by the applicant until the Grant Agreement is signed by both the Grantor and Grantee. Also, a request for reimbursement cannot be submitted until after the full project is completed.**

### **Grant Agreement**

Once all the final requirements have been completed, the Grant Agreement between the Illinois EPA and the applicant will be sent to the applicant for signature. Once the agreement is fully executed by the Illinois EPA, a copy of the fully executed agreement will be returned to the Grantee.

### **Reporting Pre-Project Completion and Annual Certifications**

All grantees will be required to submit quarterly reports to the Illinois EPA describing the progress of the projects and costs incurred. Specific reporting requirements will be identified within the Grant Agreement. Grantees will also be required to submit a close-out report including task completion with dates and costs incurred and supporting information.

In addition, grantees will be required to provide an annual certification to the Agency regarding school bus and infrastructure operation and maintenance.

Templates of reports and annual certifications will be provided to the grantees.

<b>Uniform Grant Application</b>		
<b>State Agency Completed Section</b>		
1.	Type of Submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-application <input type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed / Corrected Application
2.	Type of Application	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation (i.e. multiple year grant) <input type="checkbox"/> Revision (modification to initial application)
3.	Date / Time Received by State	
4.	Name of the Awarding State Agency Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	
5.	Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) Number 532-10-1697	
6.	CSFA Title Driving A Cleaner Illinois - Volkswagen	
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) X Not applicable (No federal funding)		
7.	CFDA Number	
8.	CFDA Title	
9.	CFDA Number	
10.	CFDA Title	
Funding Opportunity Information		
11.	Funding Opportunity Number Funding Round Six	
12.	Funding Opportunity Title Funding Round Six	
Competition Identification X Not Applicable		
13.	Competition Identification Number	
14.	Competition Identification Title	

## Applicant Completed Section

Applicant Information		
15.	Legal Name	Name used for DUNS registration and grantee pre-qualification
16.	Common Name (DBA)	
17.	Employer / Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN, TIN)	
18.	Organizational DUNS number	
19.	GATA ID	Assigned through the Grantee Portal
20.	SAM Cage Code	
21.	Business Address	Street address, City, County, State, County, Zip + 4
Applicant's Organizational Unit		
22.	Department Name	
23.	Division Name	
Applicant's Name and Contact Information for Person to be Contacted for <i>Program</i> Matters involving this Application		
24.	First Name	
25.	Last Name	
26.	Suffix	
27.	Title	



28.	Organizational Affiliation	
29.	Telephone Number	
30.	Fax Number	
31.	Email address	
Applicant's Name and Contact Information for Person to be Contacted for <i>Business/Administrative Office</i> Matters involving this Application		
32.	First Name	
33.	Last Name	
34.	Suffix	
35.	Title	
36.	Organizational Affiliation	
37.	Telephone Number	
38.	Fax Number	
39.	Email address	
Areas Affected		
40.	Areas Affected by the Project (cities, counties, state-wide)	
41.	Legislative and Congressional Districts of Applicant	
42.	Legislative and Congressional Districts of Project	

Applicant's Project		
43.	Description Title of Applicant's Project	New All-Electric School Bus
44.	Proposed Project Term	Start Date: End Date:
45.	Estimated Funding (include all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Amount Requested from the State: <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant Contribution (e.g., in kind, matching): <input type="checkbox"/> Local Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Other Source of Contribution: <input type="checkbox"/> Program Income: <div style="text-align: right;">Total Amount \$</div>
<p>Applicant Certification:  This certification must be signed by a responsible official. Applications without a signed certification will be deemed incomplete. I certify under penalty of law that, based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the statements and information contained in this Application are true, accurate, and complete. Any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent material statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA may be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties pursuant to 415 ILCS 5/44(h) or 18 USC § 1001, as applicable.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> I agree</p>		
Authorized Representative		
46.	First Name	
47.	Last Name	
48.	Suffix	
49.	Title	
50.	Telephone Number	
51.	Fax Number	
52.	Email Address	
53.	Signature of Authorized Representative	
54.	Date Signed	



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funding

### General Application Form

<b>SECTION ONE</b>		<b>Contact Information</b>	
<b>Applicant/Owner</b>			
1) Applicant Name:		2) Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN):	
3) Street Address:			
4) City:	5) County:	6) Zip Code:	
7) Contact Name:	8) Contact Title:	9) Contact Phone Number:	
10) Contact Email Address:			
11) Applicant is:		<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Government
12) Applicant will be the Owner of the Proposed All-Electric School Buses in this Application		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Operator (if different from owner)</b>			
13) Operator Name:		14) Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN):	
15) Street Address:			
16) City:	17) County:	18) Zip Code:	
19) Contact Name:	20) Contact Title:	21) Contact Phone Number:	
22) Contact Email Address:			

<b>SECTION TWO</b>		<b>Project Information</b>	
		Yes	No
1)	Are you mandated by law or regulation, by any court order or decree, or by other agreement of any kind to acquire electric school buses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2)	The existing diesel school buses to be replaced are operational and engine MY 2009 and older.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3)	Where the applicant is a commercial bus provider, the applicant has fully informed the affected school or school district of this application.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SECTION THREE****Overview of Proposed Project**

1) Number of New All-Electric School Buses in the Application:  _____	2) A separate New All-Electric School Bus Application Form is included for each proposed all-electric school bus  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3) There is adequate existing charging infrastructure for this proposed project. If "No," include Infrastructure Form		
4) Have you already purchased any of the proposed electric school buses or charging infrastructure in this Application?		
<div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</div>		
5) Total Eligible Project Cost: \$ _____	6) Applicant's Cost Share: \$ _____	7) Total Eligible Funding Request: \$ _____

**Signature Block**

This certification must be signed by a responsible official. Applications without a signed certification will be deemed incomplete. I certify under penalty of law that, based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the statements and information contained in this Application are true, accurate, and complete. Any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent material statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA commits a Class 4 felony. A second or subsequent offense after conviction is a Class 3 felony (415 ILCS 5/44(h)).

BY:

 \_\_\_\_\_  
 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

 \_\_\_\_\_  
 TITLE OF SIGNATORY

 \_\_\_\_\_  
 TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF SIGNATORY

 \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funding

### New All-Electric School Bus Application Form

<b>SECTION ONE</b>			<b>General Project Information</b>		
1) Eligible School Bus Cost: \$	2) Eligible Applicant Cost Share: A) \$                      B) %	3) Eligible Funding Request: A) \$                      B) %			
<b>Information on the School to be Served by the Proposed Electric School Bus</b>					
4) Name of School:					
5) Address of School:					
6) City:		7) County:		8) Zip Code:	
9) Name of School District:				10) Percentage of Minority/Low Income Enrollment at the School: _____%	
11) This proposed electric school bus is or will be under contract with a school district. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
12) This proposed electric school bus will serve the school identified in this Section. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
<b>SECTION TWO</b>			<b>Existing Diesel School Bus Information</b>		
<b>General Information</b>					
1) Vehicle Class: <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8					
2) Manufacturer:			3) Model:		
4) Engine Model Year:			5) Vehicle Identification Number (VIN):		
6) Bus is fueled with diesel fuel: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
<b>Operational History</b>					
7) Annual Mileage: <input type="checkbox"/> 2021 _____ miles <input type="checkbox"/> 2022 _____ miles <input type="checkbox"/> 2023 _____ miles					
8) Annual Fuel Usage: <input type="checkbox"/> 2021 _____ gallons <input type="checkbox"/> 2022 _____ gallons <input type="checkbox"/> 2023 _____ gallons					

**Location of Operation-Existing Diesel School Bus**

Existing Diesel School Bus has operated in the identified county/counties, which is the same county/counties as the school district that the new bus will serve, at least 80% of its annual operational hours in 2021, 2022, and 2023:

**Priority Area 1 (Chicago Area):**

Cook County     DuPage County     Kane County     Lake County     McHenry County

Will County     Aux Sable Township-Grundy County     Goose Lake Township-Grundy County

Oswego Township-Kendall County

9) **Priority Area 2 (Metro-East Area):**

Madison County                       Monroe County                       St. Clair County

**Priority Area 3:**

Champaign County     DeKalb County     LaSalle County     McLean County

Peoria County     Sangamon County     Winnebago County

**SECTION THREE                      Proposed Electric School Bus Information**

**General Information**

1) Vehicle Class:     4             5             6             7             8

2) Manufacturer:	3) Model:	4) Engine Model Year:
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**Engine Information**

5) Fuel Type:     All-Electric

**Location of Operation-Proposed School Bus**

Proposed Electric School Bus will operate in the identified school district and in the indicated county/counties at least 80% of its annual operational hours for 5 years from its in-service date:

**Priority Area 1 (Chicago Area):**

Cook County     DuPage County     Kane County     Lake County     McHenry County

Will County     Aux Sable Township-Grundy County     Goose Lake Township-Grundy County

Oswego Township-Kendall County

6) **Priority Area 2 (Metro-East Area):**

Madison County                       Monroe County                       St. Clair County

**Priority Area 3:**

Champaign County     DeKalb County     LaSalle County     McLean County

Peoria County     Sangamon County     Winnebago County



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funding

### Infrastructure Form

Complete a separate form for each location for the requested infrastructure

<b>SECTION ONE</b>		<b><i>Proposed Location</i></b>	
1) Street Address:			
2) City:	3) County:	4) Zip Code:	
5) Applicant will be the owner of this proposed new electric charging equipment. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Infrastructure Costs</b>			
6) Eligible Charging Equipment Cost:	7) Eligible Applicant Cost Share:	8) Eligible Funding Request:	
\$	A) \$                      B) %	A) \$                      B) %	

  

<b>SECTION TWO</b>	<b><i>Adequacy of Infrastructure</i></b>
There will there be adequate infrastructure with the addition of the proposed infrastructure detailed on this form.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	