



DRIVING A CLEANER ILLINOIS

VW Round 8 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can a single applicant apply more than once?

As stated in Section A, “a business or government applicant can only be addressed by one application, meaning an applicant is limited to submitting only one application for this NOFO.

2. Is this grant opportunity open to public/government entities, or is it only for private companies?

As stated in Section D under “Eligibility Requirements” in the NOFO, a business or government located in VW Priority Area 1 (Chicago area) can apply for new electric trucks as long as both the existing older diesel trucks to be replaced and the new electric trucks meet the eligibility criteria.

3. Is there a set maximum established for funding a single applicant?

There is no established maximum grant amount that can be awarded to an applicant. However, there are percentages and award amount caps outlined in Section F imposed on the trucks and charging infrastructure, which indirectly establishes a limit on the overall award. The Agency will provide a 75% award for eligible costs up to the capped amounts for a government applicant and a 50% award for eligible costs up to the capped amounts for a non-government applicant. In addition, as stated in Section D, an applicant can request up to 10 new all-electric trucks in their application.

4. Would the two below trucks be eligible for the funding?

- **2004 International, Flatbed tow truck**
- **2004 International, semi-truck used to haul gravel, asphalt, etc. to job sites to maintain county highways.**

As both types of trucks are used for hauling, both would be eligible (assuming the new electric trucks to replace these are also a flatbed truck and a semi-truck used for hauling).

5. Are terminal tractors eligible projects for this funding? I attached a picture for reference.

From Section A of the NOFO (and repeated in a few other sections):

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 eligible existing and licensed on-road diesel Class 4-8 medium- and heavy-duty local freight trucks (at least 14,001 lbs. GVWR) or Class 8 port drayage trucks (at least 33,001 lbs. GVWR).

Eligible trucks must be licensed and driven on public roadways. If the existing diesel and proposed new terminal tractors are only used on private property and not driven on public roadways to haul or make deliveries in communities, they are ineligible.

6. Can you further explain the “Important Note” in Section D and provide an example of how it is supposed to work if my fleet does not have any eligible older diesel trucks to replace/scrap for each new electric truck I would like to purchase?

The three priority level descriptions outlined in Section G (and also described in Section Five on the individual application form to be completed for each proposed new electric and existing diesel truck) are key to this. For example, if an interested applicant is located in DuPage County and at least half of the existing trucks’ and proposed new electric trucks’ annual operational hours are outside of Cook County, then these trucks would be at Priority Level 3. Note that the assignment of a priority level is done on a truck-by-truck basis on each individual truck application form, and both the model year 1992-2009 diesel truck to be replaced/scrapped and the new electric truck to be acquired to replace it, as described on that form, must be of the same priority level (with regards to where it operates), and also be of the same truck type and class.

If an applicant does not have an existing diesel truck in its fleet that meets the same priority level and is of the same truck type and class as a proposed new electric truck, that applicant has the option to find another truck (also of the same truck type, class, and priority level) and acquire it from another fleet entity. This flexibility provides the option to acquire someone else’s truck (purchase, trade, or other) that meets all the eligibility criteria outlined in Section D so that it can be scrapped, allowing the applicant to purchase a new electric truck to replace it. Keep in mind the applicant would have to acquire information from the previous owner and report the information requested in Section Three (e.g., miles and gallons for each of past three years) on each truck application form. In this example for an interested DuPage County applicant, if it would like to purchase a new electric Class 6 box truck to make deliveries but does not have a 1992-2009 diesel Class 6 box truck, then it has the option to find someone else’s eligible Class 6 box truck that also adheres to the Priority Level 3 requirement to scrap (same applies for a dump truck, waste hauler/garbage truck, etc.). What the applicant cannot do is propose to acquire an older Class 7 waste hauler/garbage truck to scrap for the new Class 6 box truck (as these would not be of the same class and truck type).

7. Can an applicant only apply for the charging infrastructure without purchasing any new electric trucks under this NOFO?

This NOFO is aimed at incentivizing new electric trucks and replacing/scraping eligible older diesel trucks of the same class and truck type. It is not for charging equipment/infrastructure alone without the purchase of the new electric trucks (if charging is necessary to support the new trucks).

8. If an interested applicant does not have an eligible older diesel truck in their own fleet to replace/scrap, can the grant be used to cover some of the purchase costs for the acquisition of the older truck?

The grant does not cover any portion of the purchase cost for the acquisition of an older diesel truck. The grant can only be used to reimburse the grantee a percentage of the costs of the new electric truck.

9. Can an applicant purchase the new electric truck first then apply for the grant?

The new electric truck can only be purchased after an applicant has been selected and a grant agreement is executed. Purchases made prior to the grant execution would be ineligible.

10. Can an applicant be eligible for this grant if they are located in downstate Illinois and the trucks are domiciled at that same location and driven all over the State?

The trucks covered under this NOFO must be located in the Chicago area (Priority Area 1) and have at least half their operational hours within the Chicago area.

11. Can this program be stacked with the Clean Ports Program?

As stated in Section B of the NOFO:

Applicants may use other funding (federal, state, or other) as part or all of their mandatory cost share, provided such other funding source allows for it. However, applicants may not utilize any other funding sources awarded by Illinois EPA in satisfying the mandatory cost share.

Clean Ports Program funding will be awarded by Illinois EPA for selected projects in Illinois. Therefore, Clean Ports funding cannot be used to supplement awarded grant funding for electric trucks offered through this VW NOFO.

12. Who is eligible to receive funding? Can a company who builds charging depots, partner with a fleet and use VW funding to fund their charging depot?

Eligibility requirements are outlined in Section D of the NOFO. An application must be submitted by an eligible government or business fleet entity to replace their eligible existing older diesel trucks for new electric trucks that will be owned by that applicant. Charging infrastructure can be requested as part of an application if it is needed to charge the requested electric trucks. Charging infrastructure cannot be applied for absent an application that includes electric trucks as this NOFO is not intended to solely fund charging infrastructure.

13. When will the grant payouts be provided?

The VW funding is reimbursement only, with no funding provided in advance of project completion. The VW Trustee will be directed by the Illinois EPA to wire the grantee the award amount, as defined in the grant agreement, after the project is fully completed and after all necessary documentation is provided, reviewed, and approved by the Illinois EPA.

14. If an applicant is awarded a grant, how soon does the vehicle need to be put into service?

The new truck(s) should be placed into service as soon as possible after project completion (after delivery of the truck to the grantee and scrapping of the older diesel truck). A reasonable amount of time can be afforded for any staff training, decaling, upfitting any components not eligible to be covered by the grant, or other necessary steps in preparing the truck(s) to be placed into service.

15. How does the grantee confirm to Illinois EPA that the new electric truck has been in service for 5 years?

As stated in Section H of the NOFO, grantees will be required to provide an annual certification to the Agency for five years after project completion providing basic operational information on the new all-electric trucks and infrastructure. Illinois EPA will provide a one-page annual certification form on the trucks' in-service anniversary date asking the grantee to certify that the truck(s) is/are still in operation, that they are operating in the priority level area as described in the application and in the grant agreement, and that the charging infrastructure has been maintained to support the truck(s).

16. What qualifies as "scrapping the vehicle?" What is the process or procedure?

The scrapping procedure will be described in the grant agreement and in the accompanying "Scrapage Certification" that is to be provided for each scrapped truck as follows (as prescribed by the VW Trustee and U.S. EPA): The existing diesel vehicle to be replaced has been scrapped by rendering the vehicle and engine permanently inoperable by cutting a three-inch hole in the engine block and disabling the vehicle chassis by cutting the vehicle's frame rails completely in half. Included with this certification is evidence of appropriate disposal, including digital photos of the engine tag (showing serial number, engine family number, and engine model year), the destroyed engine block, and cut frame rails.