

Transit Bus Replacement Rebate Application Instructions

General Information

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has established the *Nebraska Diesel Emission Mitigation Program* to administer funds allocated to Nebraska from the *Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust for State Beneficiaries, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia* (VW State Trust). In January 2018, NDEQ finalized an initial *Volkswagen Environmental Trust Beneficiary Mitigation Plan*¹ outlining Nebraska's plans to utilize funds from the VW State Trust to reduce diesel emissions in the state. This plan proposed to utilize 10% of the available funds (\$1,224,835) to reimburse up to 50% of the cost for the replacement of diesel transit buses by new diesel, alternative-fueled, or all-electric transit buses in accordance with Eligible Mitigation Action 2 in Appendix D-2 of the Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for State Beneficiaries (VW State Trust Agreement)².

Beginning May 23, 2018, NDEQ is soliciting applications to the Nebraska Diesel Emission Mitigation Program to fund transit bus replacement projects. The following transit agencies in Nebraska are eligible to apply for funding for these projects: StarTran (City of Lincoln) and Metro (City of Omaha).

VEHICLES ELIGIBLE FOR REPLACEMENT

- Eligible vehicles are transit buses with diesel engines, model year 2009 and older, with Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 14,001 pounds or greater (Class 4 to 8).
- Buses must be owned by a public transit agency in Nebraska and currently in operation transporting passengers.
- Lincoln StarTran is eligible to replace up to 2 (two) transit buses.
- Omaha Metro is eligible to replace up to 3 (three) transit buses.

ELIGIBLE REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

Eligible replacement vehicles are new transit buses (2017 model year or later) powered by:

- Compressed natural gas (CNG)
- An all-electric drivetrain

The replacement buses must be in the same or higher weight class as the replaced bus and must be used to transport transit passengers.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- A new bus may not be used to expand the applicant's current fleet; each new bus must replace exactly one bus that is currently operational and in use.
- Each replaced bus and its diesel engine must be disabled (scrapped) within 90 days of replacement.
- Recipients must maintain ownership of the new buses for at least three years from the date of purchase. If a new bus is sold before the end of the three-year period, moved out of state, or used for purposes other than specified under this program, the rebate recipient must notify NDEQ and may be required to return up to the full amount of the rebate to NDEQ. The amount required to be returned is at the discretion of NDEQ, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Recipients will be required to file annual reports of mileage and fuel use for the duration of the agreement.

¹ Nebraska's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan is available for download at <http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/AirVW>

² The VW State Trust Agreement (Appendix D-2 begins on page 52) is available at: https://www.vwenvironmentalmitigationtrust.com/sites/default/files/2018-05/Final%20Filed%20Dkt%2051-1%20%20State%20Beneficiary%20Trust%20Agreement_0.pdf

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applicants selected for funding shall have two years to complete their project. Prior to submitting an application, it is recommended that all applicants also review 1) the portions of the Appendix D-2 of the VW State Trust Agreement that apply to their funding request and 2) Nebraska's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.

PROJECT AGREEMENT

- All rebate recipients must sign an agreement with NDEQ. ***The new buses cannot be purchased until the signed agreement is on file at NDEQ.***
- After NDEQ has received the signed agreement, the recipient will be notified that they can complete the purchase of the new buses. ***Note: the date of the purchase order cannot pre-date the signature date of the agreement.***

REIMBURSEMENT

NDEQ will reimburse up to 50% of the cost of each new transit bus, with the following limitations:

- Lincoln StarTran may request a maximum of \$489,934 for replacement of up to two buses.
- Omaha Metro may request a maximum of \$734,901 for replacement of up to three buses.

The applicant is responsible for the remainder of the bus purchase price (cost-share). Other grant funds from federal, state, or private sources may be used for part or all of the cost-share.

Reimbursement will be made when NDEQ has received a reimbursement request with documentation that:

- The transit agency has received delivery of the new buses.
- The old buses have been scrapped in accordance with the program requirements (see below).

All reimbursements under the project agreement are contingent upon the notice of approval from Wilmington Trust.

SCRAPPAGE

The old buses being replaced must be scrapped (permanently disabled) within 90 days of replacement and prior to submission of the reimbursement request to NDEQ. Scrappage consists of:

1. Cutting, drilling, or punching a 3" by 3" hole completely through the engine block.
2. Cutting completely through the chassis frame rails on either side between the front and rear axles.

Recipients should consult NDEQ in advance for approval of any other proposed scrappage methods.

APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist to ensure you've submitted all required materials with your application. A complete application will include all the documents listed below.

- Completed and signed application form.
- An organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the rebate form.
- Completed IRS Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification. Rebate recipients should consult their tax advisor concerning the tax implications of the rebate.
- Photocopy of the Nebraska vehicle registration for each bus being replaced.
- Photocopy of the title of each bus being replaced.
- Photograph of each bus (side profile) being replaced showing the vehicle unit identifying number.
- Bids or price quotes for the replacement truck(s), including estimated delivery dates.



Nebraska Diesel Emission Mitigation Program

Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust for State Beneficiaries

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SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Only signed and dated original applications received by mail, e-mail, or in person at the address below will be accepted. Rebate applications cannot be submitted by fax. **The deadline for receiving applications is 5:00 pm on June 8, 2018.** The department is not responsible for any applications that are delayed or lost in the mail. Applicants will receive an e-mail confirming NDEQ's receipt of the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their application was received by the department by the respective deadline.

Mail, e-mail, or hand-deliver applications to:

Nebraska Diesel Emission Mitigation Program
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
1200 N Street, Suite 400
Lincoln NE 68509-8922
NDEQ.VWSettlement@nebraska.gov

Questions? Email us at NDEQ.VWSettlement@nebraska.gov or phone 402-471-4272

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Nebraska Diesel Emission Mitigation Program

Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust for State Beneficiaries

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Section 1 – Applicant Information

Agency Name: _____

Project Manager (if different from authorized signatory): _____

Address: _____
City State Zip Code

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Tax ID Number: _____ DUNS Number: _____

Section 2 – Original Bus Information	Bus 1	Bus 2	Bus 3
Vehicle ID Number (VIN)			
Bus Unit Number			
Vehicle make			
Vehicle model			
Vehicle year			
Engine manufacturer			
Engine model year (2009 or older eligible)			
Engine model			
Engine EPA Family Name			
Engine horsepower			
Gross Vehicle Weight Rating			
Fuel Type			
Annual Fuel Consumption*			
Annual Hours Idling*			
Annual miles traveled*			
Remaining years of service*			

*** Please provide values that are as accurate as possible to provide a basis for determining emissions reductions.**

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Section 4 – New Bus information, Costs, and Rebate Amount:

PLEASE ATTACH BIDS/PRICE QUOTES FOR ALL NEW BUSES TO BE PURCHASED

Vendor: _____ Bus Manufacturer/Model: _____

Engine Make/Model _____ Fuel (if applicable): _____

Base cost per new bus: _____ Total cost of all new buses: _____

Rebate amount requested: _____ (the lesser of 50% of total bus cost or \$734,901 for Omaha Metro or \$489,934 for Lincoln StarTran)

Other grant funds used for purchase: _____ Source of other grant funds: _____

Recipient cost-share amount: _____

Section 5 – Applicant Certifications

Owner or Authorized Representative: I certify to the best of my knowledge that (check each item):

- The information contained herein is true and correct.
- The buses being replaced are currently in use, in proper working condition, and currently used to transport transit passengers. The new buses will perform this same function.
- The buses being replaced will be properly disposed of in accordance with the requirements of this agreement.
- The procedure for selecting new buses followed public purchasing practices specified by my municipality.
- The new bus will not be used for fleet expansion.
- If selected for an award, the applicant will maintain ownership of the replacement buses for at least three years from the date of purchase. I understand that if any replacement bus is sold before the end of the three-year period or used for purposes other than specified in the conditions of this program, the applicant may be required to return up to the full amount of the rebate to NDEQ. The amount required to be returned is at the discretion of NDEQ, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- I understand that I will not be eligible for any projects in which costs were incurred before the project period began and after the project period ends.
- I have the legal authority to sign this agreement.
- I acknowledge that failure to provide all applicable information and supporting documentation may result in the denial of my application.

 Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative

 Signature

 Date