



Clean Yellow Fleets for Blue Skies School Bus Emission Reduction Project Project Fact Sheet

Summary

The **Clean Yellow Fleets for Blues Skies** project will reduce diesel emissions from school buses along Colorado's Front Range region by equipping existing school buses with pollution reduction equipment and through the use of a lower-polluting fuel. The Regional Air Quality Council, the lead air quality planning agency for the seven-county Denver region, and the 12 participating school districts expect to officially launch the program in the beginning of 2004 by installing the equipment and using the lower-polluting fuel.

Participating School Districts

Academy School District Twenty, Colorado Springs
Adams Twelve Five Star Schools
Aurora Public Schools
Cherry Creek Schools
Colorado Springs School District 11
Denver Public Schools

Douglas County School District RE. 1
Jefferson County Schools
Littleton Public Schools
Mapleton Public Schools (Adams County District No. 1)
St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont
Thompson School District R2-J, Loveland and Berthoud

Budget

EPA's Clean School Bus USA Program awarded twelve school districts in the Front Range region \$400,000 to assist in the retrofit and refueling of up to 150 school buses. Below is a breakdown of how the funding will be spent:

Diesel Catalyst Mufflers	\$300,000
Biodiesel Fuel	<u>\$100,000</u>
Total	\$400,000

Technology and Fuel

Diesel Catalyst Muffler – a unit that is typically installed in place of the muffler; the unit is coated with metals that trigger chemical reactions, which breakdown pollutants into harmless gases as they pass through the exhaust system; estimated to reduce fine particulate matter emissions by up to 20 percent and nitrogen oxide emissions by up to 10 percent

Biodiesel – a blend of 80 percent conventional #2 diesel fuel and 20 percent vegetable oil; estimated to reduce particulate matter emissions by up to 12 percent, carbon monoxide emissions by up to 12 percent, and hydrocarbon emissions by up to 20 percent.

Air Quality

Although the Denver region currently stands as the first major metropolitan city in the nation to reach attainment for all federal, health-based air quality standards after violating five of six National Ambient Air Quality Standards, new challenges remain. EPA has developed two new, health-based standards for ozone and fine particulate matter, also known as PM_{2.5}. The Denver region expects to stay under the PM_{2.5} standard more easily than the ozone standard. However, there is a strong relationship between PM_{2.5} and Denver's "Brown Cloud." Efforts – such as the **Clean Yellow Fleets for Blues Skies** project – will ensure that the region meets the new standard and will help reduce Denver's visibility problem.

Contact Information

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