

# Volkswagen (VW) Mitigation Trust Funds for Transit, School and Shuttle Bus Frequently Asked Questions

## Who is eligible for the VW Mitigation Trust Funds for Transit, School and Shuttle Buses?

- Anyone in the state of California (that operates primarily within the state) can apply. This includes public entities, private entities and Indian Tribes.

## How many applications can be submitted?

- There is no limits on the number of transit and shuttle applications that can be submitted. The school bus component is oversubscribed and no longer accepting applications.

## What order are applications processed?

- Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis and will be considered for funding if eligible and while project funds are available.

## What does “first come, first served” mean?

- Applications received through the online portal will be processed via received date. Please note that applications will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered for funding until all supporting documentation is received.

## Where do I apply?

- Online portal <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/vw-mitigation-trust/>
- Click on – **Get Started** and follow the instructions

## What documents are required to apply?

- Required documents list is posted on the website at <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/vw-mitigation-trust/>
  - o Application Packet Documents (required to be submitted with the online application submittal)
    - IRS Form W-9
    - Copy of the current DMV registration
    - CHP form 292 or 343A (School Bus Only)
  - o Application Packet Documents (prior to application approval)
    - Copy of proof of insurance

- Copy of title
- New bus quote
- Authorization of project implementation and signing authority
- Copy of bus route (Transit and Shuttle Bus Only)
- CARB Executive Order for the engine in the current bus
- CARB Executive Order for the engine in the new bus
- Photographs of the current engine and bus

#### What are the eligibility requirements?

- Eligible applicants are owners of transit buses, school buses and shuttle buses.
- Agencies that are the lessors that lease or rent applicable transit, school and shuttle buses to third parties may apply, however, additional requirements must be met. These requirements are specified in Vehicle Leasing or Rental Agencies in the Guidelines.

#### Does the current bus have to be in working order?

- Current Bus must be in operating and in working order, currently registered with DMV and (CHP form 292 for School bus will be requested. We reserve the right to verify that the bus being replaced is in use and operational.

#### What is the engine model year requirement for the current engine?

- Old school bus engine must be 2006 or older.
- Old transit and shuttle bus engine must be 2012 or older.

#### Do I need to turn in an old bus to get a new one? Or can I apply for a new electric buss without scrapping anything?

- You must scrap a gas, diesel, CNG or propane powered 2006 or older school bus with a vehicle weight rating of 14,001 lbs. or greater to qualify for the grant.
- You must scrap a gas, diesel, CNG or propane powered 2012 or older transit or shuttle bus with a vehicle weight rating greater of 14,001 lbs. or greater to qualify for the grant.

#### Can I apply for multiple buses on one application?

- Applicants can apply for multiple buses, but each bus must be submitted on a separate application for each individual bus to be replaced.

#### What are the maximum funding amounts?

- Government must not exceed 100% of the eligible project costs
- Non-Government must not exceed 75% of the eligible project costs
- School Buses
  - Replacing a compliant old school bus – **Up to \$400,000**
    - Requirement: New, zero-emission school bus
  - Replacing a non-compliant old school bus – **Up to \$380,000**
    - Requirement: New, zero-emission school bus

- Transit Buses
  - **Up to \$216,000**
    - Requirement: New, battery-electric bus transit bus
  - **Up to \$480,000**
    - Requirement: New, fuel-cell bus transit bus
- Shuttle Buses
  - **Up to \$192,000**
    - Requirements: New, zero-emission transit bus

#### When can I expect payment after my project is awarded?

- Payment will be issued to applicants after SJVAPCD approval of all required complete documentation and the completion of all of the post-inspections, which includes verification that the new bus is operational and current bus has been properly destroyed, in accordance with program guidelines.

#### Where can I get up-to-date information on this grant?

- Link to the website <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/vw-mitigation-trust/>
- Sign up for email list at <https://ww2.valleyair.org/about/sign-up/>

#### How do I contact the program administrator?

Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund Program Staff  
 Phone: (833)-BUS-MONEY (833-287-6663) Fax: (559)-230-6112  
 Website: <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/vw-mitigation-trust/>  
 Email: [vwbusmoney@valleyair.org](mailto:vwbusmoney@valleyair.org)

#### What are the steps to participate?

1. Submit application (per bus), via online portal at <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/vw-mitigation-trust/>
2. Staff reviews it to determine if it is complete, incomplete, or ineligible.
  - a. If complete, staff will notify the applicant.
  - b. If incomplete, staff will notify the applicant and request missing or additional items/information as needed.
  - c. If ineligible, staff will notify the applicant with reason(s) for ineligibility.
3. Staff will review all submitted documentation and prepare project for contract.
4. A Draft Contract will be sent to the applicant for review and signature.
  - a. The signed contract will be returned to the SJVAPCD for additional SJVAPCD signatures. A contract is not valid until ALL signatures have been obtained.
  - b. Applicant MUST NOT purchase or otherwise become financially committed to the new bus, or take delivery until the applicant and the SJVAPCD sign the contract.
5. Once all signatures are obtained, the SJVAPCD will execute the contract and send a completed copy to the applicant.

- a. Once the applicant receives this copy, the new bus can be purchased or ordered.
  - b. Dismantling and Reimbursement Procedures, including a step-by-step guide on how to request reimbursement for the grant, is available on the website at <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/vw-mitigation-trust/dismantling-reimbursement/>.
6. Payment will be issued to the applicant after SJVAPCD approval of all required complete documentation and the completion of all of the post-inspections, which include verification that the new bus is operational and the current bus has been properly destroyed in accordance with program requirements

How long do I have to take delivery of the new bus and dismantle the old bus after receiving an executed contract? What is the total time commitment for operating the new bus?

- An executed contract has two phases. The Project Completion Phase is 18 months from the date of contract execution; during that time applicants must take delivery and place the new bus in service, schedule all post-inspections, dismantle the old bus, and submit the claim for payment form and reimbursement documents. The Project Implementation Phase is three (3) years after the new bus is initially placed into service; during which the applicant agrees to cooperate with the District in implementation, monitoring, enforcement, and other efforts to assure the emissions benefits are real, quantifiable, surplus, and enforceable.

Where can I find additional information about the VW Mitigation Trust Fund or other VW Mitigation Trust Fund opportunities?

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has a webpage dedicated to the statewide VW Mitigation Trust for California at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/volkswagen-environmental-mitigation-trust-california>
- To track the progress of all of the VW Mitigation Trust for California, please visit the website at <https://www.californiavwtrust.org/>