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What you need to know about

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

Clean, pollution-free electric school buses are within reach for every school system in America.

The U.S. fleet of 480,000 mostly diesel-powered school buses is due for an overhaul that will provide kids with a healthier ride and help create jobs. The technology exists: more than 1,000 electric school buses are purchased or on the road already, serving schools across the country. Manufacturers are ready to scale up production. It is time for the federal government to make investments to deploy electric school buses and ensure every child in America can get to school healthy and ready to learn, without inhaling emissions linked to cancer and asthma.

WHAT'S AT STAKE:

Public Health

- Diesel school buses pose serious health risks: they emit soot and toxic air pollutants and release nearly **twice as many contaminants per mile as a tractor-trailer truck**. Electric school buses are **tailpipe-pollution free**.
- Polluting school buses are especially dangerous for students. More than **20 million kids** ride diesel school buses every day, which can have pollution levels inside up to **12 times higher** than ambient levels.
- Kids' **lung development** is compromised by diesel-fueled school buses and they are put at an **increased risk for cancer**.
- Diesel fumes and related air pollution can cause cognitive impairment, even impacting **test scores and children's ability to pay attention in class**. Diesel school buses also pollute neighborhoods and school yards, contributing to an **inequitable burden of air pollution**, which disproportionately impacts people of color and those with lower income levels.



Disadvantaged students are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of diesel pollution: **70% of all children from low-income families** take the bus to school, compared to 50% of children from families with higher incomes.

BENEFITS OF ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

Cost Savings and Job Creation

- While electric school buses require more up front investment than diesel buses, they provide savings through lower fuel and maintenance costs and providing services to the electric grid, not to mention the enormous health benefits for kids outlined above. Districts that use electric buses can save **\$2,000 in fuel and \$4,400 in maintenance per bus every year**.
- Investment in electric vehicles and electric school buses will create jobs in a growing industry. One recent estimate projected **10.7 million jobs created** from U.S. investments in electric vehicles, charging, supply chains, workforce and R&D.

A Better Climate

- Electrifying school bus fleets will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. transportation sector, which leads all sectors at almost **30% of the nation's GHG emissions**, while expanding electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Widespread use of electric buses could unlock needed electricity storage via vehicle-to-grid technology – and provide backup, mobile storage capacity during emergencies.



Federal investment is needed to drive up electric bus manufacturing and drive down costs as the industry matures. A **\$20 billion investment** could electrify at least 20% of the school bus fleet while financing associated infrastructure, technical assistance and training costs.

JOIN US IN PROVIDING A CLEANER AND HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT FOR AMERICA'S KIDS!

CONTACT

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Learn more at wri.org/electric-school-buses

ABOUT WRI'S ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS INITIATIVE

World Resources Institute provides new approaches and research on transitioning school bus fleets from diesel-powered to electric. Our goal is to help build unstoppable momentum toward electrifying the entire fleet of U.S. school buses by 2030 through a growing constellation of partner organizations and school districts.

ABOUT WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

WRI is a global nonprofit organization that works with leaders in government, business and civil society to research, design, and carry out practical solutions that simultaneously improve people's lives and ensure nature can thrive.