

Program Description:

Diesel engines emit nearly 40 toxic substances, smog-forming oxides of nitrogen, and fine particulate matter (PM). They contribute to a laundry list of adverse health effects, including: dizziness, increased incidence and severity of asthma attacks, chronic bronchitis, coughing, symptoms associated with cardiovascular disease, cancer risk and even premature death. Evidence continues to mount that children, especially those with asthma, are exceptionally sensitive to the effects of fine particle pollution. Children riding diesel school buses receive an *extra dose* of particle pollution from the vehicles themselves, as the pollution inside reaches levels several times that of ambient levels outside.

The Adopt-A-School-Bus Program was established to address these health concerns and to aid local school districts in replacing or retrofitting their older diesel school bus fleets with newer, cleaner-running buses and cleaner, low emissions technologies. The Houston-Galveston Area Adopt-A-School Bus Program is a fuel neutral program that acts as a clearinghouse for product, technology, fuel, and funding source information. Also, the program seeks to gather community resources to assist school districts in the HGB nonattainment area with protecting children's health and improving air quality. The program utilizes federal, state, supplemental environmental project (SEPs) and other private funds to equip school bus fleets in the HGB nonattainment area with cleaner, low emission technologies sooner than would otherwise occur through normal turnover.

Eligible projects include:

- Accelerated replacement of pre-1994 model year buses
- Diesel particulate filters (DPF) for school buses built 1994 or later
- Diesel oxidation catalysts for buses not eligible for DPFs that are not replaced
- The purchase and use of other emission-reducing add-on equipment for school buses, including devices that reduce crankcase emissions,
- The use of qualifying fuel,
- Other verified technologies that reduce particulate matter and/or NOx.