

**We're  
in the  
market  
for  
CLEAN  
AIR**

**TRADING  
credits  
CLEANING  
school  
buses**



A program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council  
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[www.h-gac.com/aerco](http://www.h-gac.com/aerco)

**AERCO**

# AERCO. Doing A WORLD OF GOOD for industry and environment.



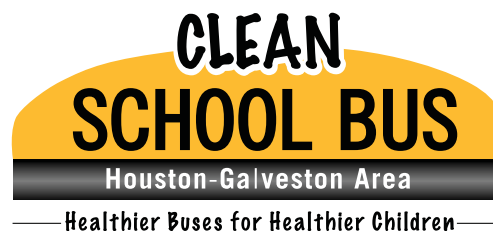
**The Houston-Galveston (eight-county) metropolitan nonattainment area exceeds federal air quality standards for ground-level ozone under the Clean Air Act. This affects business and industry in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties. Not only can there be no net increases in air emissions in this area, there also must be significant reductions in emissions across all sources.**

## **We can help you breathe easier**

Good news. There is a way to comply with the Clean Air Act (CAA), and continue to grow your company. The law allows for industrial sources to meet their new or increased air emission needs and/or be in compliance, if these are offset by the reduction of emissions elsewhere in the non-attainment area.

## **The Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization**

AERCO was established in 1994 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in an effort to help the nonattainment areas in Texas achieve air quality attainment mandated by the CAA. Administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), AERCO is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to improve air quality and facilitate economic development by acquiring, distributing and retiring emission reduction credits as well as administering the region's Clean School Bus Program.



## **The Clean School Bus Program**

The goal of the Houston-Galveston Area Clean School Bus Program is to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust fumes as well as the amount of air pollution released in to the region.

Diesel engines, specifically those powering most of the buses carrying hundreds of thousands of children to school daily, spew out nearly 40 toxic substances, smog-forming emissions and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) known as soot. Children are more vulnerable to air pollution than healthy adults because children breathe at a faster rate and their respiratory systems are still developing.

## **School Buses Today—Less Walking;More Coughing**

Clean School Bus aims to reduce pollution from buses through partnerships with business, education, transportation and public health organizations. School Districts can apply for funds to help retrofit and replace buses in their fleet.

Please visit [www.cleanschoolbushouston.org](http://www.cleanschoolbushouston.org) for the application.

## **AERCO makes it easy to get the credit you deserve**

AERCO will work on behalf of participants to navigate through this complex and bureaucratic process. AERCO experts can facilitate and expedite this process and save your business valuable time by:

- ▶ Staying abreast of the latest guidelines and mandates set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and TCEQ
- ▶ Pushing certification of earned credits through regulatory process
- ▶ Providing a built-in buyer (AERCO) for mobile credits
- ▶ Creating a critical mass in the credit earning efforts with other companies to meet clean air standards
- ▶ Helping regional economic development efforts

AERCO charges 10 percent of the emission reduction credits certified, and those credits then constitute as a not-for-profit donation to AERCO that, in turn, is eligible as a federal income tax deduction.

## **Your company earns more than credits**

Aside from the monetary and tax benefits, working with AERCO shows the regulatory community your company's acts of corporate and social responsibility – your company then becomes recognized as a clean air leader in the region.

**By working with AERCO to generate, trade and sell emission reduction credits, your company helps itself in the creation of credits to sell, trade, bank or donate. Plus, your company becomes recognized as a part of the solution.**

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