

### **Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust - Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: Are electric terminal tractor projects outside of Indiana port locations eligible?

A: Yes. Indiana will consider electric terminal tractor projects located outside of Indiana port locations eligible for Round 2 of the program.

Q: Am I correct in my understanding that some diesel-to-diesel projects that were eligible for funding last year, like local and regional delivery trucks, are not eligible in Round 2?

A: Yes. Only diesel-powered school buses and refuse haulers are eligible for diesel-to-diesel repowers and replacements in Round 2 of the program.

Q: How does Indiana define a refuse hauler? Does this include commercial roll-off haulers as well?

A: Residential refuse haulers only are eligible in Round 2 of the program. For the purpose of this RFP, residential refuse haulers are vehicles that travel through Indiana neighborhoods picking up residential trash and recycling bags and/or bins.

Q: If I received funding from Round 1 of the program, but haven't completed my project and submitted my reimbursement request yet, can I apply for funds from Round 2?

A: Maybe. The RFP states that applicants that received funding from the program in a previous round "may not be eligible to apply for the current round." The RFP goes on to say that we recognize delays can occur and exceptions may be considered with written approval from the program administrator.

Q: We are an entity that has the ability to apply for 3<sup>rd</sup> party and Federal funds to be used as our cash match for our application. Can we use the possibility of receiving these funds as our required match?

A: No. All cash match requirements must be met by funds already available to the applicant and cannot be contingent upon the outcome of another grant program request.

Q: Where are the MBE/WBE/VBE or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise forms online?

A: There are not forms for this declaration online. Instead, an applicant should provide evidence that they are active participants in either the [Indiana Department of Administration](#) or [Indiana Department of Transportation](#) program. This can be through a screenshot of their listing online or similar.

Q: Where is the Indiana Economic Impact form online that is referenced in the RFP?

A: The Indiana Economic Impact form can be found at <https://forms.in.gov/download.aspx?id=6139>.

Q: The RFP says Indiana anticipates award projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$2 million. Does that mean projects under \$50,000 won't be considered?

A: No. If quality projects are received that fall slightly below the minimum anticipated award of \$50,000, they will be reviewed and scored along with all others.

Q: What is the length of time an applicant must own the replacement vehicles received through the VW program?

A: The Grant Agreement will require awardee to own, operate and maintain the vehicle/equipment for no less than 5 years.

Q: Are the replacement vehicles required to be driven 100% of the time in Indiana?

A: No. The replacement vehicles are required to accumulate a minimum of 75% of their annual mileage within the State of Indiana.

Q: Are the replacement vehicles required to be domiciled in Indiana?

A: Without exception the replacement vehicles are expected to be domiciled in Indiana.

Q: Do new vehicle quotes count towards the 10-page submission limit?

A: No. Vehicle quotes and other supporting materials do not count towards the submission limit.

Q: Can applicants generate a P.O. or receive the replacement vehicle before Grant Agreement is awarded and executed?

A: NO COSTS can be incurred for the project prior to the signature of the Indiana Attorney General's Office.

Q: Does this grant cover firetrucks?

A: Yes. Firetrucks are eligible as Class 8 trucks.

Q: When the RFP discusses model years, is this intended to reference vehicle model years or engine model years?

A: References to model years in the RFP are focused on the engine certification years (engine model year), as opposed to chassis model years (vehicle model year).

Q: What are the prior usage requirements of the existing trucks in Indiana? Is there a time frame or percentage of time that the trucks need to have operated in Indiana to make them eligible for the grant?

A: Applicants must be registered with the Indiana Secretary of State and the expectation is that the vehicles and equipment are registered and located in Indiana and used with Indiana facilities. The Indiana Volkswagen Fleet Data Reporting Spreadsheet includes a requirement for Indiana BMV registration number.

Q: What are the reporting requirements after a replacement vehicle is placed into service?

A: Although there are not typically post replacement reporting requirements, it should be noted that Indiana's Grant Agreements will include a requirement that the Grantee own, operate and maintain the replacement vehicle serving the same purpose and in the same area as the existing vehicle for a minimum of 5 years following the date of funded purchase.

Q: The RFP states that onroad vehicles must travel at least 7,000 miles per year. Do all of these miles need to be travelled in the State of Indiana?

A: Regardless of the total number of annual miles travelled (including the 7,000 minimum), the requirement is that 75% or more of the miles travelled by the existing vehicle as well as 75% of the miles travelled by the replacement vehicle occurred/occur in the State of Indiana.

Q: If a project is completed in phases, can the Grantee request reimbursement in phases or are they only reimbursed after the total project is complete?

A: A single reimbursement request should be submitted to IDEM at the completion of the full project as awarded. It will then be reviewed and verified by IDEM prior to submission to the Trustee.

Q: Can used buses be purchased?

A: No. Replacement vehicles/equipment must be certified to U.S. EPA or CARB emission standards as of the date of the project implementation.

Q: Are gas school buses or equipment eligible under the program?

A: No. Only diesel-powered vehicles/equipment are eligible for funding under the program.

Q: If I purchase four new vehicles each year, can I purchase four in 2019 and four in 2020 before the end of the grant period?

A: Yes. As long as the replacement vehicles are purchased and delivered within the grant period, they are eligible for reimbursement.

Q: Our school system operates on a 12-year replacement cycle, so our buses are already budgeted and scheduled to be replaced this year. Can we use Volkswagen funds for this purchase?

A: The intent of the program is not to offset costs already budgeted and planned, but to encourage earlier than planned replacement of vehicles and equipment. However, if one wanted to accelerate the purchase of newer, cleaner vehicles and equipment, the Volkswagen funds could be used for purchases of new vehicles and equipment ahead of the formal replacement schedule.