

Subject Line: ACTION ALERT: Tell the PCA: Time for clean buses!

Body of the Email:

Dear Health Professionals,

- MPCA is taking comments on how to spend 23.5million dollars they received from the Volkswagen Diesel emissions scandal.
- Send an email to vwsettlement.pca@state.mn.us before August 16th 2019, to urge the MPCA to fund electric school buses.

More information below

The Background:

- Between 2009 and 2016, **Volkswagen produced 11 million vehicles that were designed to cheat on diesel emissions tests** to hide excess pollution.
- In 2016, **Volkswagen and the federal government reached a settlement** stating that VW violated the federal Clean Air Act. **Minnesota's share of the settlement is \$47 million.**

What happened in Phase 1?

- **In Phase 1, MPCA funded 111 fossil-fuel-run school buses and zero electric buses.**
- One of the reasons was that MPCA funded these buses with matching funds that were to be supplied by schools. Thus, schools were unable to provide matching grants, as electric buses are expensive.

The issue right now:

- MPCA taking public comments right now on how to spend Phase 2 settlement funds: \$23.5 million over the next 4 years

What is our ask?

- We are asking the MPCA to **fully fund electric school buses with priority to districts with poor air quality** and higher ozone-attributable asthma related hospital visits. We want the MPCA to fund these buses outright, as school districts might not be able to provide matching funds.
- **We strongly support not funding any new fossil fuel vehicles.**
- This is not without precedent. Other states that received VW settlement funds have invested in electric buses. US PIRG gave a rating to states utilizing these funds and scored Minnesota a C. <https://bit.ly/30IOUUP>

How can you help?

- The MPCA wants to hear from you on how to spend the funds. **Deadline is August 16, 2019**
- Send an email now to vwsettlement.pca@state.mn.us as a health professional to ask the MPCA to use all the Volkswagen Settlement funds—except those reserved for electric charging infrastructure—to **fund electric school buses**.

Sample Email:

Feel to personalize by adding what's at stake for you and add relevant scientific evidence.

Dear MPCA,

My name is ----. I'm a---- (health professional credentials). I'm writing today to urge you to utilize the VW settlement funds to purchase electric school buses (or other personalized ask you have to help reduce air pollution). This will help keep our children healthy and reduce the damage to our climate.

As a health professional, I also voice my strong opposition to funding fossil fuel based transportation.

Thank you for time
----(Signature)