

Grant Application for Diesel to Zero-Emission Refuse Vehicles, Street Sweepers, PCHE,¹ and Freight Switchers: Frequently Asked Questions

Can a private organization apply on behalf of a public or tribally-owned organization?

The applicant must be the public or tribal organization. However, the applicant may add a private organization as a contractor in our grants system for help with the application.

Are railcar movers included as part of “switcher locomotives?” Do they have to be used in freight applications? Could railcar movers used by Sound Transit for moving train cars around be electrified?

The Trust Agreement defines “freight switcher” as a locomotive (as defined by [40 CFR 1033.901](#))² that moves rail cars around a rail yard. A line-haul engine moves freight long distances. To be eligible for this grant opportunity, switcher locomotives must be used in freight applications.

A railcar mover is not considered a locomotive. Therefore, it is not eligible for this grant.

Are grants stackable?

Yes. However, expenditures for eligible costs must be distinctly separated between grants/funding sources.

Are leased vehicles eligible?

No, the applicant must own the equipment being purchased.

Is there a limit to how many vehicles an applicant may replace? There are vehicle award amounts listed per project category in the announcement. Would an applicant be able to pursue multiple project categories?

There is no limit on how many vehicles applicants may replace. Applicants may pursue multiple project categories. More information about the scoring, evaluation, and award process will be included in the full announcement on July 26, 2023.

What is the official title for this program?

Air Quality VW Diesel to Zero Emission Refuse Vehicles, Street Sweepers, PCHE, and Freight Switchers Grant Opportunity

What time are applications due on October 26, 2023?

Applications are due by 5 p.m. PDT on October 26, 2023.

¹ Port cargo handling equipment

² [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-U/part-1033/subpart-J/section-1033.901#p-1033.901\(Locomotive\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-U/part-1033/subpart-J/section-1033.901#p-1033.901(Locomotive))

Are non-port yard trucks eligible project types (e.g., yard trucks at city/county refuse transfer stations, etc.)?

To be eligible to apply, port cargo handling equipment must operate within ports.

Are non-port forklifts eligible project types?

Yes, forklift projects do not need to be within ports to be eligible. All forklifts must meet the minimum eligibility requirements as defined in the [funding guidelines](#).³

Does Ecology recommend a vehicle manufacturer?

No, Ecology does not recommend a vehicle or equipment manufacturer. Ecology is aware of the following manufacturers of refuse vehicles: BYD, Battle Motors, Peterbilt, and Lion trucks. This may not be an exhaustive list. Ecology is not recommending one manufacturer over another.

Should reporting average annual fuel usage span a certain number of years?

We encourage applicants to use the most recent year's fuel use data. However, applicants may include data from additional years to calculate the estimated average annual fuel use for vehicles and equipment.

Will an estimate of costs meet the "price quote" requirement in the application or is a true quote needed?

Ecology does require actual quotes from the manufacturer. An estimate of costs supporting the amount requested in the application will be sufficient. Please note that Ecology will not adjust awards if costs are higher than expected.

[Webinar Q&A](#)

Does this grant cover charging infrastructure costs to support the vehicle?

Yes, grant amounts include eligible infrastructure costs.

What is the battery life and performance of electric street sweepers on hills?

There wasn't a significant difference in operations when electric street sweepers were tested on hills and on flat terrain.

Can sending the older diesel vehicle to a surplus auction house satisfy scrap requirements?

This grant requires that the vehicle being replaced is scrapped and no longer operational. Please see grant guidelines for full destruction requirements.

Does cold weather affect electric street sweepers' operation?

When stored in a heated garage, the vehicle does not have issues starting. The vehicle operated successfully in cold temperatures, including operations in temperatures as low as 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

³ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/UIPages/SummaryPages/2302071.html>

Will a level 2 or DC fast charger best support the new electric vehicle?

Level 2 chargers work well for overnight charging. A 10–12-hour charge overnight can give 7-10 hours of operation in a day. Level 2 installation can be simpler and cost less than a DC fast charger. A DC fast charger may have a more intensive installation process and higher costs. It can be used to charge the vehicle during the day and get additional hours of operation.

Is there any training for drivers, operators, and technicians?

Please contact your manufacturer to understand their training and support offerings.