

Edwin Valbert

Mitigation plan goals and overarching principles

Use the VW diesel settlement money to buy electric school buses and the supporting charging infrastructure for school districts statewide.

Why this would be good use of the funding;

- Diesel school buses travel 10's of thousands of miles every week statewide
- School buses travel fixed routes which would allow for accurate documentation of diesel emissions eliminated
- School buses return to a fixed point every day which would allow for overnight charging at centralized charging stations reducing the cost for installing charging infrastructure
- School buses stop, start, and idle a lot which is operation better supported by an electric vehicle
- Air quality both in the buses and around the buses (areas in which kids spend lots of time) will be significantly improved – this supports previously funded healthy kids initiatives
- Elimination or reduction of diesel fuel storage at districts would reduce school district costs and allow for improved protection of the environment – similar to the removal and replacement of diesel storage tanks in past state efforts
- School districts in low electric rate areas (Eastern Washington) could see overall all bus operation costs be reduced
- The 295 existing school districts operate in every county in the state offering an opportunity to distribute the funding statewide
- School district funding is always a challenge and this could be another opportunity to support districts and reduce future district operating costs as well
- Since the money was derived from a diesel vehicle settlement it would seem appropriate to use the funds to reduce diesel vehicle pollution, protect school aged children, and improve the overall environment

Disproportionately impacted communities

A disproportionately impacted community should be school age children who spend the most time on diesel buses, and around idling diesel buses as they wait to load and unload.

It would be interesting to see average hours per day children are exposed to diesel bus fumes statewide both riding and while the buses wait at their schools for kids to load and unload

General comments

Thank you for all your efforts regarding where this funding will do the most good.