



## VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT FACTSHEET FOR CITIES AND TOWNS

### What is the Volkswagen Settlement?

For nearly 500,000 model 2009 – 2016 motor vehicles, Volkswagen (VW) knowingly hid cheating computer systems that ran emissions controls during testing, but not during normal vehicle operation. Emissions from VW cars were up to 40 times above legal levels. Volkswagen is now required to spend up to \$14.7 billion to help offset this pollution, of which, \$2.7 billion is going towards all 50 states (including Puerto Rico) for investment in programs that reduce pollution from transportation.

### How much does Massachusetts receive in VW funds?

Massachusetts is receiving ~\$75M in funding for clean transportation programs that reduce smog causing oxides of nitrogen (NOx). The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is the lead agency for distributing these funds and is currently drafting a plan on how best to invest these funds.

### How can towns and cities use these funds?

The funds can be used for projects that comply with [specific actions](#) stated under Appendix D-2 of the settlement. Of these, cities and towns can use funds for:

- **School and Shuttle Buses** – Eligible buses may be repowered with an all-electric engine or replaced with a new all-electric vehicle. For government agencies—including school buses contracting with the public-school district—funds can cover 100% of the cost and includes purchase and installation of charging infrastructure.
- **Light Duty Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE)** – A max 15% of our state’s allocation (up to \$11.25M) can be used to buy, install, operate and maintain new light duty EVSE including Level 1, Level 2 and DC fast charging stations in public place, workplace and multi-unit dwellings.

### How can cities and towns in Massachusetts advocate how these funds are spent?

- **Testify in person.** Support local projects that will electrify the transportation system, reduce NOx emissions and serve environmental justice. Through March 2018, MassDEP is holding a series of stakeholder [meetings](#). Attend in person, bring a few friends, or submit comments online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JXNDT2B>.
- Encourage **your local transit authority to electrify bus routes running through your municipality.** Transit agencies can use funds to cover 100% of the cost to replace fossil fuel buses with zero emission electric buses.

For updates on how the state plans to invest these funds visit <https://www.mass.gov/guides/volkswagen-diesel-settlements-environmental-mitigation>. For information on the VW Settlement visit <https://content.sierraclub.org/evguide/volkswagen-settlement>. To help advocate for projects in your city or town contact Veena Dharmaraj at [veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org](mailto:veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org).