

## Electric School Buses. . . a winning solution for school children, for the community, and for the environment

### **Electric school buses are a winning solution. They are:**

- Safe. Electric school buses follow the same safety standards as diesel buses.
- Quiet. A bus running on battery power is very quiet.
- Less polluting. Recharging the battery is more energy efficient than burning fossil fuels. Consequently, driving an electric bus reduces fossil fuel emissions, including greenhouse gases.
- Healthy. Because electric buses emit no pollution, children riding the bus and waiting at the bus stop will be exposed to less polluted air. It is estimated that 5.8% of Iowa youth are afflicted with asthma.<sup>1</sup> Reducing children's exposure to diesel exhaust emissions would help ease the breathing problems faced by those children.
- Cost effective. Electric buses have a lower total cost of operation that is less than a diesel bus. Lower maintenance costs plus lower costs to recharge a battery than the cost of diesel fuel leads to a lower total cost of operation.
- Furthermore, money spent on electric school buses can be leveraged with federal dollars, as part of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program. In Iowa, some of the Volkswagen Settlement money will be used for grants toward the purchase of electric school buses.

### **Ask your school district to purchase electric school buses**

- Contact the superintendent of the school district, the school principle, and the school board and let them know that you support the purchase of electric school buses and encourage them to purchase electric buses the next time that they purchase a new school bus.
- Speak with the head of the school transportation department about electric school buses.
- Engage the parent teacher association about electric buses and their benefits.
- Visit with your neighbors and friends about electric school buses.



### **References**

The U.S. Department of Energy has resources to get you started. See [https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric\\_school\\_buses.html](https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric_school_buses.html)

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<sup>1</sup> "Current Asthma by State, 2018", American Lung Association, [www.lung.org/research/trends-in-lung-disease/asthma-trends-brief/data-tables/asthma-current-state](http://www.lung.org/research/trends-in-lung-disease/asthma-trends-brief/data-tables/asthma-current-state)