



# MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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**Patrick-Murray Administration Announces Installation of Pollution Controls on 185 Buses Serving 20 Communities Across the Commonwealth**

*Diesel Retrofits Clean the Air from Vehicles that Serve Nearly 16,000 Students*

BOSTON – Building on the Patrick-Murray Administration’s efforts to promote clean energy, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) today announced that five more bus owners have installed pollution controls on 185 more school buses, under the “MASSCLEANDIESEL: Clean Air for Kids” program. Under the program, state and federal funds pay for the installation of free diesel retrofit pollution controls on eligible diesel school buses.

“Each school bus that receives a retrofit under this free program helps to protect students and the health of our local communities,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr.

Participating in this round of MASSCLEANDIESEL school bus retrofits are: Lecrenski Bros. Inc. of Westfield; Five Star Transportation, Inc. of Agawam; Braga Transportation, Inc. of Fall River; The City of Pittsfield; and Healey Bus, Inc. of Swampscott.

Under MASSCLEANDIESEL, the one public and four private bus owners have installed pollution controls on 185 diesel school buses that serve 15,950 students across 20 municipalities in the Commonwealth. Two firms based in Tyngsboro and Shrewsbury installed the retrofit devices.

There are now 50 participating bus owners who have retrofitted 1,162 school buses, providing cleaner air benefits to more than 138,000 students across 216 municipalities.

“The clean diesel effort is a perfect example of MassDOT’s ‘GreenDOT’ initiative and the Healthy Transportation Compact state agency collaborative to pursue healthy transportation options and support a cleaner environment,” said Massachusetts Department of Transportation Secretary and CEO Jeffrey Mullan.

“Our goal is to provide an excellent and equitable education for all of our students and that starts with helping them arrive at school healthy and prepared to learn,” said Education Secretary Paul Reville.

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With \$16.5 million in state and federal funding provided by the MassDOT, under an agreement associated with the Central Artery/Tunnel Project, MASSCLEANDIESEL: Clean Air for Kids aims to install pollution controls – known as diesel retrofits – on thousands of diesel-powered school buses across the Commonwealth. MASSCLEANDIESEL is the nation’s first fully funded, statewide program to reduce air pollution from school buses statewide.

“Each retrofit will reduce pollution from the exhaust and result in cleaner air for everyone,” said MassDEP Commissioner Kenneth L. Kimmell. “This is especially important for children whose developing lungs are particularly susceptible to diesel exhaust’s damaging health effects.”

**Lecrenski Bros. Inc.**, of Westfield installed pollution controls on 62 buses in its fleet, which is responsible for transporting approximately 1,500 students from the eight towns attending the Gateway Regional School District – Westfield, Huntington, Russell, Blandford, Chester, Worthington, Montgomery, and Middlefield.

**Five Star Transportation, Inc.**, of Agawam installed retrofits on 32 buses in its fleet, which services approximately 750 students attending public schools in Amherst, Hadley, South Hadley and Hatfield.

Twenty buses in the **Braga Transportation, Inc.** fleet also participated in the MassCleanDiesel program. These buses transport approximately 8,000 students from Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester who attend the Old Rochester Regional School District and K-12 students attending public school in the City of Fall River.

“We are happy to be involved with the MassCleanDiesel program and happy that we are helping to make the air cleaner for the kids we transport,” said Braga Transportation Vice President Frank Braga.

The **City of Pittsfield** participated in the MassCleanDiesel program by installing retrofits on 52 buses in its fleet. These buses are responsible for transporting approximately 3,700 students attending Pittsfield’s 13 public schools.

**Healey Bus, Inc.** installed retrofits on 19 school buses in its fleet, which are responsible for transporting approximately 2,000 students attending Nahant, Saugus and Revere public schools.

“Everything seems to be running smoothly,” said Healey Bus, Inc. Owner and Operator Mark Healey. “The installed technology is catching the blow-by gasses and the air is staying cleaner. Thanks for helping us do our part to clean the air.”

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By participating in the program, these school buses received a diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC), a crankcase ventilation (CCV) system, or both. DOCs, which function like a catalytic converter in the engine exhaust system, reduce tailpipe emissions. CCVs, which are installed on the engine, greatly reduce the infiltration of blow-by gases from the engine into a bus's interior.

Together, these two add-on components reduce emissions of fine particulate matter (PM – that is 2.5 micrometers in diameter or less) by at least 20 percent or more, hydrocarbons (HC) by 60 percent, and carbon monoxide (CO) by 60 percent. There is strong scientific evidence that PM is implicated in the rising asthma rates in school age children and is also considered a probable carcinogen. HC helps form ground-level smog, and exposure to this pollutant is associated with increased hospital admissions for respiratory distress, such as bronchitis. Exposure to CO can cause headaches, nausea, and death.

**New England Transit Sales (NETS)**, located in Tyngsboro, performed retrofit installations on school buses owned by Lecrenski Bros., Inc., Five Star Transportation, Inc., The City of Pittsfield, and Healey Bus, Inc.

**Tri State Truck Center, Inc.**, located in Shrewsbury, performed retrofit installations on Braga Transportation, Inc.

For more information on school bus diesel retrofits, visit:

[www.mass.gov/dep/air/masscleandiesel](http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/masscleandiesel), e-mail program officials at [massclean.diesel@state.ma.us](mailto:massclean.diesel@state.ma.us), or call the MASSCLEANDIESEL Help Line at 617-292-5809.

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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