

Responses to Questions
MassDEP Diesel Emissions Rection Act (DERA) Electric Solicitation
March 28, 2025

General/Eligibility

Question*	MassDEP Response
Are the DERA funds available?	MassDEP's DERA funds were temporarily frozen, but are now available, so MassDEP is proceeding with the DERA offering.
Does MassDEP know of any manufacturers making something that would be able to replace a medium or heavy-duty truck?	<p>MassDEP does not recommend or endorse any particular vehicle make or model and cannot assist potential grantees in identifying suitable options. As an informational tool only, the following resources may assist potential grantees in researching and identifying options. MassDEP offers no guarantee of the accuracy or relevance of the information available through these resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://globaldrivetozero.org/tools/zero-emission-technology-inventory/ • https://www.act-news.com/buyers-guide/?buyer_listing_category=bev-battery-electric+fcev-fuel-cell-electric+hydrogen-fuel-cell • https://www.electricfleet.org/ • https://www.electrificationcoalition.org/resource/drve/ • https://www.atlasevhub.com/resource/drve/ • https://evfleet.tools/
What is the maximum funding per applicant?	There is no maximum funding limit per applicant other than the total amount available through this solicitation.
What is the maximum funding per project?	There is no maximum funding amount per project. However, please note that there are limits on the on percentage of eligible costs, depending on the category for which an applicant applies for funding from. Please see <i>Table 8. Cost-Share Requirements</i> on page 6 of MassDEP's guidance , which lists the maximum percentage of eligible costs the grant can cover.
Are refuse vehicles eligible?	Yes, class 5 to class 8 medium- and heavy-duty vehicles are eligible, which is the size of typical refuse vehicles. Class 5 to class 8 vehicles have a gross vehicle weight range (GVWR) of 16,001 lbs. and above.
Would diesel-powered food trucks qualify for this program?	Class 5 to class 8 medium- and heavy-duty diesel vehicles are eligible to be replaced with a similar vehicle type and size used for the same purpose.
Would switching from diesel generators to something else for food trucks be an option?	Yes. Replacement of an eligible diesel generator with an electric one is eligible.

Question*	MassDEP Response
Do vehicles such as loaders, back-hoes, and tractors qualify for this program? If yes, at what level (replacement or other technology?) Is there a cost-share requirement?	Yes. "Nonroad engines, equipment, or vehicles" that meet the eligibility requirements qualify for replacement or repowering with electric technologies. There is a cost-share requirement, see <i>Table 8. Cost-Share Requirements</i> on page 6 of MassDEP's guidance .
Could grants awarded by this program be stacked with other MA state funds, specifically DOER's MOR-EV program? Are there any restrictions on combining these funding sources?	Yes. The DERA state program allows the mandatory grantee cost-share funds to come from other state sources. However, other state sources may have their own restrictions and applicants are advised to first consult with the entity administering those funds to confirm that this practice is permissible.
Are these funds stackable with other funding from federal grants or utility rebates?	No. EPA requires that the mandatory grantee cost share come from non-federal sources. The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities does not allow stacking, so requires utilities to deduct from utility rebates any funding that grantees receive from third parties, such as DERA.
Are buses serving private schools eligible for MA DERA Grants?	Yes.
Under this program, how is a project's Environmental Justice (EJ) status determined, is it by depot location or routes serviced?	Garage location and routes serviced are both taken into consideration when determining a project's EJ status.
Does the replaced vehicle have to be the same type of vehicle as the scrapped vehicle? For instance, can a diesel rear load refuse hauler be scrapped/ replaced by an electric front load refuse hauler?	EPA addresses this on page 23 of their guide , "To be eligible for funding the replacement vehicle or equipment must be of similar type and gross vehicle weight rating or horsepower as the vehicle, engine, or equipment being replaced." The vehicles in the example are both refuse trucks, and may be eligible as long as the weight class and use are similar.
Is it allowable to replace a large (such as class 5) diesel vehicle with a lighter (such as class 2) electric vehicle? For example, replacing a diesel Ford F-450 with a Ford F-150 Lightning.	The DERA program allows for the replacement of a diesel vehicle with a smaller class electric version. However, the smallest eligible replacement vehicle would be a class 5. Therefore, the scenario described would not be eligible. Ford F-150 Lightnings may be eligible for rebates under the MOR-EV program.

Question*	MassDEP Response
We purchased Ford F-150 EV trucks in 2024. We are looking to purchase more in the future as we are trying to make our fleet emission-free. Are we eligible to apply for this grant?	No. Only class 5-8 medium- and heavy-duty diesel vehicles are eligible for this grant, which is larger than the F-150 Lightning. Ford F-150 Lightnings may be eligible for rebates under the MOR-EV program.
Is it appropriate for school districts that have applied for the 2024 Clean School Bus rebate program to pursue DERA as well?	There is no restriction on applying for this solicitation while having an application in for another program. Since federal funds cannot be used for the DERA grantee cost-share, the applicant would have to decide which program to accept if offered a grant under both the Clean School Bus program and DERA.
Are GPUs (Ground Power Units) eligible under the solicitation?	GPUs are “Nonroad engines, equipment, or vehicles” and are eligible.
Are small municipalities that own and operate seven full size diesel school buses and two gas Mini buses eligible to apply?	There are no restrictions based on applicant size. If you have an eligible diesel school bus to scrap, you are eligible to apply. EPA lists school bus eligibility on page 10 of its guide , and states it <i>“Includes diesel powered school buses of Type A, B, C and D. A “school bus” is defined as a passenger motor vehicle designed to carry a driver and more than 10 passengers, that the Secretary of Transportation decides is likely to be used significantly to transport preprimary, primary, and secondary school students to or from school or an event related to school.”</i>
Are the replacement engines required to be electric and/or hybrid?	This grant will only replace diesel engines/vehicles with electric motors/vehicles, therefore hybrid engines/vehicles are not eligible.
If a diesel vehicle was purchased with a Box/Slate/Bed, is that also covered under the grant?	This grant is for electric vehicle replacements only. Similar equipment on replacement vehicles required to carry out the same functions as the existing vehicle would be eligible costs.
Considering that many manufacturers have long lead times, combined with the rapid advancement of electrification technology, can we change our quotes if needed, or if a better price is offered, after being awarded the grant but before purchasing the replacements?	Certain changes to equipment would be allowed, provided that the updated equipment meets the requirements. If project costs increase, grantees are limited to the originally awarded amount. If project costs decrease, the grant only covers up to a maximum percentage of the final invoice, as listed on page 6 of MassDEP’s guidance .

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In what format should a vendor provide cost quotes for their clients to submit with their applications?	Each quote must be itemized, clearly showing eligible and ineligible costs. Ineligible costs include taxes, extended warranties, vehicle upgrades/add-ons from base that were not on the original equipment, etc. For charging stations, ineligible costs include all make-ready work to the stub. Applicants will also need to show that the chargers meet BABA (Build America, Buy America) requirements.

Charging Stations

Question	MassDEP Response
Does the grant include help with the cost of installing EV charging stations?	For each electric vehicle/piece of equipment, the grant will cover a portion of charging station hardware costs and installation. See the bottom of page 7 in MassDEP's guidance .
As the grant only covers one charging port per vehicle/ piece of equipment, how do we proceed if the charging station we want is dual port?	You may apply with a dual port station. We recommend having the vendor estimate the cost to install a single port station and using that to fill out MassDEP's DERA Project Information Form (https://www.mass.gov/doc/dera-project-information-form/download). Upload that estimate along with the actual quote. Alternatively, you can halve the dual port quote supplied.
Will this program fund charging stations/infrastructure for vehicles that have already been procured?	No. Charging stations are eligible only with the purchase of new electric vehicles or equipment through the program. Depending on the project location, local utilities may offer separate programs to fund chargers for medium- and heavy-duty fleets. Applicants are advised to consult with their local utility (e.g., see utility websites for Eversource and National Grid).

Idle Reduction Technology

Question	MassDEP Response
Are you able to share more information about idle reduction technology, including whether and how we would be able to apply for it?	Measures to reduce idling by installing electric equipment to enable power without use of a diesel engine are eligible for funding. See Table 8 on page 6 of MassDEP's guidance for the eligible technologies and the cost-share requirements. More information on eligible idle reduction technology can be found in EPA's guide . Use the application form at https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-diesel-emissions-reduction-act-dera-electric-solicitation-grant to apply.

Question	MassDEP Response
Can we apply for funding to install verified Idling Reduction Technologies on our current diesel engines?	Yes. Measures to reduce idling by installing electric equipment to enable power without the use of a diesel engine are eligible for funding. See Table 8 on page 6 of MassDEP's guidance for the eligible technologies and the cost-share requirements.

**Please Note: questions submitted by potential applicants have been edited for clarity and/or brevity.*