

**Responses to Questions  
MassDEP Volkswagen Open Solicitation  
March 7, 2019**

*The following are the responses of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to questions regarding the Volkswagen Open Solicitation (VW OS) issued on January 19, 2019. The deadline for asking questions was 5 p.m. March 4, 2019.*

Question	MassDEP Response
<b>Application Process</b>	
How do I start this application process and what information do I need to apply for this grant?	An applicant should read through the <i>Application Guidance and Grant Requirements</i> , the <i>Project Application Form</i> and the <i>Vehicle/Engine Data Form</i> (at <a href="https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-vw-open-solicitation-grant">https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-vw-open-solicitation-grant</a> ) for information regarding the program and its requirements.
Is all the information on <i>Vehicle/Engine Data Form</i> required, or only those cells denoted by the green shading?	Applicants need to supply all the data requested in the <i>Vehicle/Engine Data Form</i> , not just the data requested in the green columns. The green columns indicate data that are <u>also</u> requested by the Diesel Emissions Quantifier (DEQ), the program that in almost all cases you must use to estimate the emissions reductions of your proposed project (see the <i>Guidance</i> tab on the <i>Vehicle/Engine Data Form</i> at <a href="https://www.mass.gov/media/1959991">https://www.mass.gov/media/1959991</a> for information on how to use the DEQ).
What is the deadline for completing an application?	The deadline to complete and submit the VW OS application is 5 p.m., March 18, 2019.
Are there approved companies that can help me figure these forms out?	MassDEP does not approve companies to assist with completing applications.
Can you review my application before I submit it to make sure it looks OK?	MassDEP answers specific questions that help ensure complete and eligible applications, but does not review applications before they are officially submitted.
We have one vehicle that is eligible under one Eligible Mitigation Action (EMAs) and another vehicle that is eligible under another EMA. Are we supposed to fill out one application for both of them?	You can submit the same <i>Vehicle/Engine Data Form</i> containing information on all the vehicles, under any EMA, for which you are applying for funding, but you need to submit a separate <i>Project Application Form</i> for each vehicle, unless the replacement vehicles are exactly the same in every respect.

Can a school apply for funding for a new vehicle or must it replace an existing fossil-fuel powered bus?	Entities applying for funding for a new bus under the VW OS must replace and scrap an existing eligible diesel powered bus in order to receive funding toward a new bus.
Are municipalities allowed to apply for more than one diesel vehicle replacement?	Yes, municipalities can apply for more than one diesel vehicle replacement. The funding award cap is \$500,000 per entity.
Do applicants have to replace the specific vehicle they apply for or can they replace another vehicle that is not listed on the application?	Applicants must replace the vehicle that is listed on the <i>Vehicle/Engine Data Form</i> .
What should I do if I cannot read the engine serial number?	Engine serial numbers are typically located on a label on the driver's side on engine block. The serial number may also be in the owner's manual. If you cannot read the number on the engine block and it is not in the owner's manual, take a picture of the label on the engine block and include the picture with your application.
What should I do if the manufacturer does not provide the estimated miles per gallon (MPG) for the replacement vehicle?	An application that does not estimate the gallons of fuel reduced by switching from existing to replacement equipment will be unable to estimate emissions reductions, one of the selection criteria for the Open Solicitation. Our recommendation is to research the vehicle's MPG, and submit details in your application regarding the methodology you used to estimate the MPG.
Phase One solicitations are due March 18, 2019. Do you have an anticipated deadline for applications to the Phase Two round of funding?	MassDEP does not have an anticipated timeline for the next round of funding. If you would like to receive updates about our open solicitations, please subscribe to our VW mailing list ( <a href="https://www.mass.gov/forms/subscribe-to-the-volkswagen-settlements-email-list">https://www.mass.gov/forms/subscribe-to-the-volkswagen-settlements-email-list</a> ) if you have not already. Future open solicitations will also be announced on MassDEP's website and COMMBUYS.
<b><i>Application Evaluation &amp; Announcement of Awards</i></b>	
If we have a mix of vehicles, would the entire application be judged as one project, or could MassDEP award funding for only a few of those vehicles?	MassDEP will evaluate all vehicles listed in an application and may award funding to all, some, or none of the vehicles. The maximum allowable funding amount per entity is \$500,000. If an applicant wants to prioritize certain vehicles for funding, the applicant can note such prioritization in the last question on the <i>Project Application Form</i> .

When will MassDEP announce the grant awards?	MassDEP expects to announce grant awards in mid-2019 or later.
After submission of the application, when will we find out if we are awarded money and when will we have the money in hand?	Money can be disbursed only after the project is complete. MassDEP expects to announce grant awards in mid-2019 or later. As indicated on page 10 of the <i>VW Open Solicitation Guidance</i> , projects are generally required to be completed within 18 months of signing the Commonwealth's <i>Standard Contract Form</i> . The grantee will choose whether the money is disbursed as a reimbursement to the grantee who has already paid the vendor, or as a direct payment to a vendor for the amount covered by the grant.
<b>Documentation Requirements</b>	
Would an attestation meet the requirements for documenting that a vehicle operated in MA for the past two years?	No. As indicated in the <i>Project Application Form</i> "For vehicles inspected under the MA Inspection and Maintenance Program, provide copies of the last two Vehicle Inspection Reports (for a copy go to <a href="https://www.mavehiclecheck.com/apps/vir-lookup-tool">https://www.mavehiclecheck.com/apps/vir-lookup-tool</a> ). For other equipment, provide operational or fuel records."
If an applicant is not applying for charging infrastructure funding, must the applicant still upload a copy of the specification documentation for the charging infrastructure?	No; however, please note question 5 on the <i>Project Application Form</i> that requests information on existing fueling infrastructure.
Using the link provided to obtain the vehicle inspection reports, I could only get one year's report. What is an acceptable alternative to the two years requested?	If you can only get the most recent vehicle inspection report, the vehicle's registration showing Massachusetts registration at least two years prior to the application date would be acceptable in conjunction with the one vehicle inspection report.
What is an example of acceptable documentation to confirm airport ground support equipment (GSE) has operated in MA for the last two years?	Accepted documentation for non-road GSE would be operational or fuel records. For on-road GSE (such as a fuel truck) acceptable documentation would be copies of the last two Vehicle Inspection Reports (VIRs) issued under the MA Inspection and Maintenance Program (the VIR lookup tool can be found at <a href="https://www.mavehiclecheck.com/apps/vir-lookup-tool">https://www.mavehiclecheck.com/apps/vir-lookup-tool</a> ).
<b>Eligibility - Entities</b>	
Are public schools eligible for the VW OS?	Yes, public schools are considered part of a municipality, which are eligible entities under the VW OS.

Are private colleges eligible for these funds?	Yes.
<b>Eligibility - Vehicles/Equipment/Vessels</b>	
Are gas vehicles eligible?	The only gasoline vehicles eligible to be replaced are certain gasoline-fueled airport ground support equipment. In no case may a replacement vehicle be gasoline-fueled.
Are existing hybrid vehicles eligible?	Whether an existing vehicle is hybrid is not part of the eligibility criteria. Therefore, if an existing hybrid vehicle meets the eligibility criteria (e.g., model year, etc.) it is eligible for replacement.
Are truck leases eligible for funding (i.e., the lessor would apply directly) under the VW OS?	MassDEP has not determined whether leased vehicles are eligible under the VW OS, but will consider any applications submitted.
Is there a grant program for ZEV locomotive switchers?	Yes, locomotive switchers are included in the VW OS program under EMA 3 – Freight Switchers.
Can a diesel vehicle be replaced with a new diesel vehicle?	Yes, replacing an existing diesel vehicle with a newer diesel vehicle, provided all the requirements for both vehicles are met, is an eligible project.
Are dumpers, sanders and salters eligible?	If “dumpers” refers to waste collection vehicles or dump trucks, they are eligible provided they meet all the eligibility criteria. Sanders and salters are eligible if they are operated on a dump truck chassis and meet all the eligibility criteria.
Can a terminal tractor that is licensed for on-road use (plated and registered) be considered a local freight truck since it is a Class 8 vehicle and it drives on surface streets legally?	Yes.
Are terminal tractors that are used at an inland distribution facility eligible?	EMA 8 specifies that terminal tractors used at ports are eligible. MassDEP has not determined whether an inland distribution facility qualifies as a port, but will consider any applications submitted.
Are ferries eligible?	Ferries are an eligible EMA if they meet specific requirements as listed in the <i>Guidance</i> .

<p>Are the following vehicles and equipment eligible under the VW OS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diesel fire engines and ambulances;</li> <li>- A Plymovent Source Capture Vehicle (diesel and gasoline) Exhaust Fume Removal System;</li> <li>- Large diesel and gas mowers and tractors;</li> <li>- Diesel utility vehicles;</li> <li>- Power assisted pedal "buses" used to take kids to school;</li> <li>- Graders and backhoes;</li> <li>- Diesel emergency generators that supply emergency and standby power to a utility;</li> <li>- Bucket trucks that are used to make traffic light repairs;</li> <li>- Diesel street sweepers;</li> <li>- A 2011 14-passenger transit bus?</li> </ul>	<p>No, none of these vehicles and equipment are eligible for funding under the VW OS.</p> <p>It is possible that some or all of these vehicles and equipment could be eligible under the separate Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant program. MassDEP will put your name on a list to be contacted when the next Massachusetts DERA grant solicitation opens, if you fill out Tab F, <i>DERA (Informational Only)</i>, of the <i>Vehicle/Engine Data Form</i> to inform us about your vehicle/equipment/vessel. The next MassDEP DERA grant solicitation will be announced publically on MassDEP's web site when open. As indicated on page 5 of the <i>Guidance</i>, you may also contact <a href="mailto:haidee.janak@mass.gov">haidee.janak@mass.gov</a> to be notified when the next Massachusetts DERA grant solicitation opens.</p>
<p>We have a Class 5 Hino that has operated primarily in MA for the past two years. On December 12, 2018 we took it off the road (cancelling the registration) due to a head gasket problem. It is now a candidate for repowering or replacement. Is this truck eligible under the program?</p>	<p>No, as stated on page 3 of the <i>VW Open Solicitation Guidance</i>, funding is available to replace or repower eligible vehicles or equipment operating in Massachusetts at the time the application is submitted to MassDEP. Vehicles or equipment that have been taken out of service are not eligible.</p>

<b>Emissions Calculations</b>	
Is there a requirement that we use mileage/fuel actuals instead of the default values in the EPA DEQ?	Unless otherwise instructed by the <i>Guidance</i> tab on the <i>Vehicle/Engine Data Form</i> or there is no other alternative, MassDEP expects applicants to use actual data rather than the default values offered in the DEQ.
<b>Environmental Justice Areas</b>	
If the vehicle is not garaged in an Environmental Justice (EJ) area, but travels to one regularly, does that count as a project in an EJ area?	Yes, the <i>Project Application Form</i> , page 8, "Project's Location and Project's Environmental Justice Area Designation," asks where the project is "located or garaged." Including general route information as directed on the application form will allow you to show the extent to which the vehicle operates in an EJ area.
<b>Fuel Storage and Charging Stations</b>	
Is charging infrastructure hardware, including a "console," eligible?	Yes, charging infrastructure hardware, including the console, is eligible. Page 8 of the <i>Guidance</i> document ( <a href="https://www.mass.gov/media/1959981">https://www.mass.gov/media/1959981</a> ) lists the items that the VW OS will and will not fund.
Are compressed natural gas (CNG) storage vessels for a CNG fueling facility eligible?	No.
Would a dual head electric vehicle charging station be considered under the VW OS?	If the charging station is for medium and heavy duty trucks, school, transit or shuttle buses, the charging station could only be funded under the VW OS if an eligible diesel vehicle is replaced with an electric vehicle under the VW OS at the same time. If the charging station is for passenger vehicles, then you would apply under the MasseVIP program; see <a href="https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-massevip-fleets-incentives">https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-massevip-fleets-incentives</a> for more information.
<b>Funding</b>	
Can applicants combine funding from the MasseVIP Program with the VW OS?	There is no equipment that would be eligible for funding under both the VW OS and MasseVIP programs; however, applicants may apply under both MasseVIP and the VW OS for different projects simultaneously.

<p>Are entities allowed to apply for funding under both the VW OS and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Program Opportunity Notice (PON) at <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/clean-vehicle-program-public-private-fleets">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/clean-vehicle-program-public-private-fleets</a>?</p>	<p>Entities may apply under both programs; however, if an entity is selected for funding, it will only receive funding from one program. Since DOER’s PON is “reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis until allocated funds are awarded,” and the VW OS award announcement is not expected before mid-2019, the agencies expect the PON to be fully committed before the VW OS awards are announced. An entity receiving an award offer from DOER could withdraw its PON application in hopes of being awarded a greater amount under the VW OS, but would take the risk that it might not be selected under the VW OS, and that the DOER PON might in the meantime become fully committed.</p>
<p>How much funding is available to a municipality for a shuttle bus?</p>	<p>For a municipality, VW funding will cover up to 80% of the cost of a new or repowered diesel, alternative fuel or all-electric shuttle bus. If the new bus will be electric, the VW funding will also support up to 80% of the cost to purchase and install all-electric (including fuel cell) charging equipment. The cap per entity under the VW OS is \$500,000.</p>
<p>Are taxes covered?</p>	<p>No, the VW OS will not fund the payment of taxes. Page 8 of the <i>Guidance</i> document (<a href="https://www.mass.gov/media/1959981">https://www.mass.gov/media/1959981</a>) lists the items that the VW OS will and will not fund.</p>
<p>When would the co-payment be due to the applicant’s vendor?</p>	<p>MassDEP does not require a specific deadline for funding recipients to submit co-payments to their vendors. Recipients must arrange this with their vendors. However, funding recipients must submit a copy of their co-payment to MassDEP.</p>
<p>Is only the vehicle eligible for funding, or could we apply for the total quote price, including accessories?</p>	<p>Pages 6 through 8 of the <i>VW Open Solicitation Guidance</i> list costs that will and will not be covered. If an applicant wishes MassDEP to consider an item not addressed the <i>VW Open Solicitation Guidance</i>, include an itemized cost quote in the application.</p>
<p>Does the funding cover the replacement of entire vehicles?</p>	<p>The VW OS will fund a percentage of the cost to replace a vehicle as indicated in the <i>Guidance</i> at <a href="https://www.mass.gov/media/1959981">https://www.mass.gov/media/1959981</a></p>
<p><b>Project Start Dates</b></p>	
<p>Do we have to wait for an application to be approved before starting a repower?</p>	<p>Yes, pursuant to the VW Open Solicitation rules, an applicant must wait to receive an approval letter before ordering equipment or vehicles that are the subject of that approval.</p>

<b>Scrappage</b>	
Can existing equipment have usable parts removed for reuse before it is scrapped?	As long as the requirements for scrappage specified in Appendix D-2 of the VW Settlement are followed (in particular, cutting “a 3-inch hole in the engine block” and “cutting the vehicle’s frame rails completely in half”), non-engine and non-frame rails parts may be removed for reuse.
<b>Vehicle/Equipment Vendors</b>	
Would you be able to provide a list of vendors who sell all-electric large and medium trucks that are covered in the grant?	<p>The Commonwealth of Massachusetts currently has the three contracts with vehicle vendors listed below. While these vendors are not required to give private entities the pricing listed in these contracts, the contracts can be a resource list of area vendors to contact for a quote. The Commonwealth and MassDEP do not recommend any vendor, and the vendors on these contracts do not represent a complete list of vendors who might sell electric large and medium trucks.</p> <p>VEH98 <i>Passenger Vehicles, Specialty Vehicles, Heavy Duty Vehicles and Others</i>:  <a href="https://www.mass.gov/media/1327431">https://www.mass.gov/media/1327431</a></p> <p>VEH93 <i>Heavy Duty Vehicle</i>:  <a href="https://www.mass.gov/media/1128341">https://www.mass.gov/media/1128341</a></p> <p>VEH102 <i>Advanced Vehicle Technology Equipment, Supplies and Services</i>:  <a href="https://www.mass.gov/media/1133201">https://www.mass.gov/media/1133201</a></p> <p>In addition, the United States Department of Energy’s Alternative Fuels Data Center webpage contains an <i>Alternative Fuel and Advanced Vehicle Search</i> feature that includes large and medium electric vehicles at <a href="https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/search/">https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/search/</a></p>