



Kern High School District Receives Over \$15.4 Million for the US EPA: Clean Bus Program

In a groundbreaking development, Kern High School District has been awarded a staggering \$15,405,000.00 grant from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Bus Program. This transformative grant is set to propel the district's commitment to sustainability and environmental consciousness to new heights. California Consulting Senior Project Manager, Dr. Julie High, in collaboration with KHSD admin, secured the winning application.

Clean Energy Revolution

The substantial grant will be utilized to upgrade a total of 39 school buses, transitioning from traditional diesel engines to state-of-the-art electric ones. This monumental shift aligns with the district's unwavering dedication to providing a healthier and greener environment for students, staff, and the wider community.

The move to electric buses is not merely a modernization effort but a strategic initiative aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of the school district. Electric buses produce zero tailpipe emissions, significantly contributing to cleaner air and fostering a more sustainable future.

Impactful Change for Kern Students

The grant's implications extend far beyond the realm of transportation. By updating the school bus fleet to cleaner energy sources, Kern High School District is setting a precedent for environmental stewardship. Students, the very beneficiaries of this initiative, will experience firsthand the positive impact of these environmentally friendly changes.

Advantages of the Clean Bus Program:

1. **Environmental Benefits:** The shift to electric buses will significantly reduce air pollution, benefiting both the immediate school environment and the broader community.
2. **Health and Safety:** Electric buses contribute to a safer and healthier environment for students and drivers by eliminating harmful diesel emissions.
3. **Educational Opportunity:** Students will have the chance to learn about sustainable practices and environmental responsibility, aligning with modern educational goals.
4. **Cost-Efficiency:** Over the long term, electric buses tend to have lower operational costs and require less maintenance than their diesel counterparts.
5. **Community Leadership:** Kern High School District's commitment to cleaner transportation sets an example for other districts, promoting a culture of environmental responsibility.

A Collaborative Effort

The success of securing the EPA Clean Bus Program grant is a testament to the district's dedication to sustainability and the collaborative efforts of school administrators, staff, and California Consulting. The shared commitment to creating a cleaner and healthier environment for students has propelled Kern High School District to the forefront of the green energy movement in education.

As the project unfolds, the community can look forward to witnessing the positive transformation of the school bus fleet and, more importantly, the tangible benefits for the health and well-being of students and residents alike.

Cal Consulting Director of Operations, Dan Rodriguez, commented "Kern High School District's bold step towards embracing clean energy buses is not just an investment in transportation; it's an investment in the future of education, the community, and the planet. The grant from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency marks a significant milestone in the district's journey toward a more sustainable and eco-friendly future."
