

South Shore Clean Cities TPC Report

Nov. 9, 2021

1. **Infrastructure bill:** Everyone should know by now that the infrastructure bill passed over the weekend. I should remind you we don't lobby and are nonpartisan. That said, when it comes to funding for electric vehicles and public transit – both of which help reduce emissions – of course we're interested. Under the bill, Indiana would expect to receive \$100 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state³. Indiana will also have the opportunity to apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill. Based on formula funding alone, Indiana would expect to receive nearly \$680 million over five years under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to improve public transportation options across the state as well. We're excited to see these plans put into action for the state and Region. There are some Indiana details on this fact sheet released in Aug. by the White House after the Senate passage: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/INDIANA_Infrastructure-Investment-and-Jobs-Act-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf
2. **Multiple grant awards for members & ourselves:** South Shore Clean Cities and its members on Sept. 14 were awarded \$8.9 million in Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund grants funds for 106 alternative fuel and electric vehicles and pieces of equipment as well as funds for a statewide electric vehicle campaign. The Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund Committee approved the 23 successful grant applications, which were written by South Shore Clean Cities for its members and itself. The awards will help to fund three electric and 74 propane school buses, six compressed natural gas transit busses, two electric refuse truck, 18 compressed natural gas refuse trucks, one electric semi truck and two electric material handlers.

NIRPC region awardees include Scrap Metal Services, the City of Portage, the City of Hobart, Homewood Disposal, Bulkmatic, School City of Hammond, Lake Central School Corp., Michigan City Area Schools, School Town of Munster.

The Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund Committee at its Tuesday meeting also awarded South Shore Clean Cities a five-year, \$800,000 grant for outreach, education and marketing for the statewide electric vehicle charging network funded by the VW program. The DC fast charging network will be managed by the Indiana Utility Group through a grant awarded by the Committee earlier this year.

Congressman Frank J. Mrvan announced two grant awards in Sept. for South Shore Clean Cities (SSCC) under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program.

The two EPA grant awards will total \$7.8 million and be used to assist the SSCC in its efforts to reduce diesel emissions throughout the region. Specifically, the funding will be used to promote the use of certain vehicles, including clean diesel refuse trucks and electric, compressed natural gas, and renewable natural gas trucks.

3. **NWI Clean Air Website:** SSCC is working with NIRPC to develop a NWI Clean Air Website to serve as a clearinghouse for information on all clean air programs in the Region supported by NIRPC, such as the Green Fleet Program, Partners for Clean Air, the Region Man campaign, etc. We are working on the design and content and hope to make it live by the end of the year.
4. **DieselWise Funding Available:** Round 3 of grant funding for the DieselWise Indiana with Volkswagen DERA Option program is now open for applications. The program will distribute awards ranging from \$50,000-\$1 million, with total available funding set at \$1.8 million. Grant funds will be awarded to clean air projects that significantly reduce diesel emissions from nonroad vehicles or equipment across Indiana. Public & private entities may submit applications. The Request for Proposals deadline is Dec. 17, 2021. Contact our office with questions.
5. **LEAP Funding Available:** Last month, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm introduced Communities LEAP (Local Energy Action Program) – a new pilot initiative to support communities currently experiencing either direct environmental justice impacts, or direct economic impacts from a shift away from historical reliance on fossil fuels. Under this pilot initiative, DOE will provide technical assistance services valued at up to a total of \$16 million to support 24-36 communities to develop their own community-driven clean energy transition approach. Applicants must register to apply for this opportunity. Once registered, applicants will receive access to apply. The application deadline is December 17, 2021 at 5:00PM ET.