

Reducing Diesel Emissions for a Healthier Tennessee

The 2021 RDE4HT Rebate Program Request for Proposals (RFP) & Application

Release date: October 21, 2020
Due date: December 11, 2020 (5pm CT)



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Introduction

East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition's "Reducing Diesel Emissions for a Healthier Tennessee" Rebate Program is making grant funding available in Tennessee to replace older, diesel vehicles with a) new alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) that can run on propane, compressed natural gas (CNG), electricity, or that are hybrids, or b) new diesel vehicles. Funding can also be requested for efforts towards replacing engines in older diesel vehicles with new alternative-fueled or diesel engines, converting OEM diesel vehicles to run on alternative fuels, and the addition of Truck Stop Electrification (TSE, and similar) equipment at Tennessee-based Travel Centers. This funding is EPA Diesel Emissions Reductions Act – or DERA – funding that is provided to states to reduce diesel emissions. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) oversees Tennessee's state EPA funding and is partnering with the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCleanFuels) to manage the rebate program and funding and direct it into efforts **that reduce diesel emissions** in Tennessee from Memphis to Mountain City. ETCleanFuels will collaborate with the Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition in making the funding available to fleets across the entire state. "Tennessee Clean Fuels" is an overarching name for both Clean Fuels coalitions working together on projects for all Tennesseans and Tennessee fleets.

Eligible Applicants

VEHICLES/ENGINES: Any entity that owns and operates vehicles in Tennessee for a Tennessee-based fleet or fleet domicile site may apply; this includes contractors that provide transportation or hauling services. The entity itself or the contractor may apply, but whoever owns the vehicle(s) should be the applicant. Vehicles that are leased are not allowable in this program. Public or private entities in Tennessee may apply for funding.

TSE / eTRU: Public Travel Centers and private trucking "terminals" that are located in Tennessee and that would like to install TSE, electric TRUs or "reefers" (trailer refrigeration units, or eTRU when able to run off Shorepower-type electricity), may apply. This can include (but is not limited to) equipment utilized at public truck stops and private trucking fleet terminals.

Available Funding & Proposal Parameters

- ✓ This funding is available in all 95 counties in Tennessee.
- ✓ **A total of \$305,000 is available in funding in 2020-21.**
- ✓ All proposal elements should be completed by July 23, 2021 – vehicles acquired or engines replaced and put into readiness for service, or TSE/eTRU purchased and installation completed.
- ✓ **ETCleanFuels may choose to select an applicant (or contractor) to be awarded funding but may request a reduction in the amount of funding to be included in the award, depending on the total number of applications received.** This is for the purposes of sharing the funding among a diverse group of fleets or entities across Tennessee, and this discussion will take place during award notification.
- ✓ Once entities are selected for awards, written agreements will be drafted. Once the agreements are executed, the entity will then purchase the vehicles and/or equipment and then provide invoicing and other details on their expenses to ETCleanFuels. Once all the needed information has been provided, ETCleanFuels will reimburse up to the approved amount to the entity, as shown in the contract.
- ✓ **The applicant does NOT have to calculate emissions reductions related to the project.**

VEHICLES & ENGINES:

- ✓ Any one entity may apply for a maximum of 15 new vehicles or engine replacements.
- ✓ The new vehicles that are purchased must be kept in service for a minimum of three (3) years and be used on similar routes with a similar number of miles per year as the older diesel vehicles that are replacing.
- ✓ The applicant must provide with their proposal to ETCleanFuels one quote for each new vehicle or engine for which funding is being requested. For engines, the quote should include costs for equipment and labor.
- ✓ **The old vehicles must be able to start and move in all directions.**

- ✓ All vehicles old and new must be above a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds.
- ✓ New vehicles must meet federal safety standards and required warranties.
- ✓ **Usage requirement.** Old vehicles must have a) accumulated at least 10,000 or more miles per vehicle OR b) been in use for at least three days per week over the most recent 12 months, operating in regular service.
- ✓ **OLD VEHICLE DESTRUCTION - The engine(s) from the old vehicles must have a hole drilled in them, and the frame rails must be cut in half.** The rest of the parts, body, or frame may be sold for recycling or other purposes, or kept as replacement parts as needed. Proof of engine and frame rails destruction must be provided to ETCleanFuels. This can include a) using a blow torch to i) blast a hole in the block and ii) cut the frame rails in half, and submitting multiple photos clearly showing the holes or cuts both up close and from further away, or b) crushing the old vehicles and engines and submitting documentation from the crusher. Photos or documentation must be provided for each older diesel vehicle being destroyed.
- ✓ **Vehicle/Engine Age.** Please see the below table for more information about the year of vehicles and engines that can be replaced or converted:

Current Engine Model Year (EMY)	Vehicle or Engine Replacement: Engine Model Year 2016+	Vehicle or Engine Replacement: Engine Model Year 2016+ (Zero Emission or Low-NOx)	Clean Alternative Fuel Conversion
older – 1995*	<i>1995 and older vehicles cannot be replaced in this program without a waiver. In cases where an older vehicle is still used on a regular basis, we can request a waiver from the EPA.</i>		
1996 - 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes
2007 - 2009	Yes	Yes	Yes
2010 - newer	No	Yes	Yes

>>> Vehicle replacements:

- ✓ Funding can cover up to 25 percent (25%) of the total cost of a replacement vehicle powered by a 2016 model year or newer engine certified to EPA emission standards, including to the NOx standard of 0.2 g/bhp-hr (grams per brake horsepower-hour).
- ✓ Funding can cover up to 35 percent (35%) of the total cost of a replacement vehicle powered by a 2016 model year or newer engine certified to CARB’s Optional Low-NOx Standards of 0.1, 0.05 or 0.02 g/bhp-hr NOx.
- ✓ Funding can cover up to 45 percent (45%) of the total cost of a new, zero tailpipe emissions replacement vehicle.

>>> Engine replacements:

- ✓ A maximum of 40 percent (40%) of the cost (equipment and labor) of replacing a diesel engine with a 2016 model year or newer engine certified to EPA emission standards, including to the NOx standard of 0.2 g/bhp-hr.
- ✓ A maximum of 50 percent (50%) of the cost (equipment and labor) of replacing a diesel engine with a 2016 model year or newer engine certified to CARB’s Optional Low-NOx Standards of 0.1, 0.05 or 0.02 g/bhp-hr NOx.
- ✓ Funding can cover up to 60 percent (60%) of the cost (equipment and labor) of replacing a diesel engine with a zero tailpipe-emissions power source.

>>> Alternative fuel conversions:

- ✓ A maximum of 40 percent (40%) of the cost (equipment and labor) of an eligible certified or compliant clean alternative fuel conversion.

- ✓ **Priority.** We use a priority system – based on the new vehicle’s type and fuel – that contributes to the decision-making process for selecting applicants to fund. That priority is as follows:

- #1 - Alternative-fuel school buses
- #2 - Other alternative-fuel vehicles/engines
- #3 - New diesel school buses
- #4 - Other, new diesel vehicles/engines

TSE / eTRU:

- ✓ No more than **30% of the total cost to purchase and install equipment** that is used to provide heating, cooling and/or electric power to the tractor cab or trailer shall be covered.
- ✓ For eTRU units, no more than **25% of the total cost of a new eTRU system or entire trailer with an attached eTRU system** shall be covered.
- ✓ The funding can go towards a) the electrification infrastructure that will allow the diesel-using equipment on the tractor or trailer to turn off and use electricity instead, and b) a trailer or the equipment that would be installed on a trailer to operate a cooling system on electricity in lieu of diesel. This includes necessary installation costs. *Please note that applications that request funding for the eTRU that goes on the trailer (and potentially the new trailer too) must be approved by EPA.*
- ✓ There is no limit on the number of spaces or trucks/trailers that may be applied for.
- ✓ The funding cannot pay for APUs for tractors.

IMPORTANT Dates

- ✓ October 21, 2020 = RFP released
- ✓ December 11, 2020 = ETCleanFuels must receive all complete applications by 5pm Central Time. *Email is the preferred delivery method; faxed and mailed applications will also be accepted, but the deadline is the same. ETCleanFuels will follow up with applicants if any questions arise.*
- ✓ December 18, 2020 = ETCleanFuels will select and notify the selected rebate recipients via email
- ✓ January 27, 2021 = ETCleanFuels will complete the agreements with rebate recipients
- ✓ July 23, 2021 = The new vehicles are expected to be purchased and put into service, or the TSE/eTRU equipment has been purchased and installed by this date. *(If vehicle ordering timelines make it difficult to meet this deadline, the applicant may notify us in their application.)*
- ✓ August 27, 2021 = Deadline for sending rebate checks to winning applicants

Primary Contacts for this RFP & Rebate Program

- ✓ **Jonathan Overly** – Director, East Tennessee Clean Fuels: 865-974-3625, jonathan@etcleanfuels.org
- ✓ **Alexa Voytek** – Coordinator, Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels: 615-532-0238, alexa.voytek@tn.gov
- ✓ **Fax, if needed:** 865-974-1838
- ✓ **Mailing address, if needed:**
ETCleanFuels
ATTN: 2020 RDE4HT
311 Conference Center Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-4134

Submitting the Application

Applicants are requested to submit the application via email but can use fax or postal mail if necessary. The applicant must be listed on the title as the sole owner of the vehicle or equipment, unless applying to replace state- or district-owned buses. *Here is a checklist of what needs to be included in the application package:*

1. The completed application, which starts on the next page of this RFP. If more space is needed than the 10 lines provided in the application, please simply make a copy of or use a duplicate PDF version of the application for your additional vehicles. *Two separate applications are provided on the following pages – one for vehicle replacements and one for TSE/eTRU efforts – only complete one of the two applications.*
2. The vehicle title & registration for each older diesel vehicle being replaced or repowered.
3. Quotes for a) the new vehicle(s), or for b) the new TSE-related equipment.

Email your application and requested supplemental materials to: apply@RDE4HT.info. Emailed applications should include the subject line: **“RDE4HT 2020 Rebate Application.”**

If the applicant does not have access to email, mailed or faxed applications are acceptable. If using fax, the faxed information must be legible. Please plan to submit your application in advance of the deadline to ensure ETCleanFuels can read the application and has time to acquire additional information as necessary. Please call Jonathan Overly at 865-974-3625 for assistance.

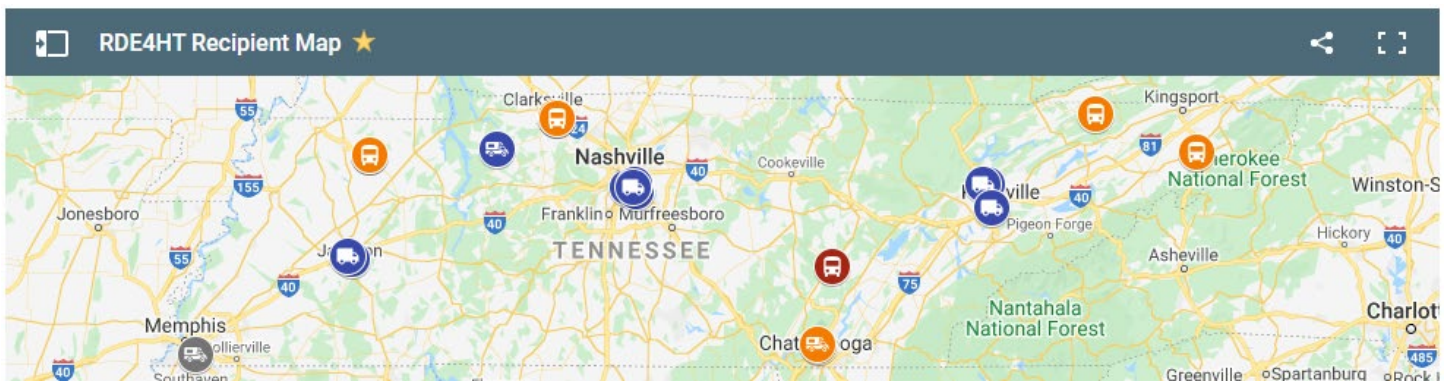
Selection Information

All applications received will be reviewed for completeness and correctness. If review staff have any questions, they will contact the Primary Contact as listed in the application. Once all questions are answered, they will review the submitted data. ***ETCleanFuels will select the winners based on but not limited to these criteria:***

- ✓ *Completeness of the application*
- ✓ *The vehicle/engine/conversion priority as is noted above*
- ✓ *The amount of diesel use the project will reduce (the more, the better) and the associated potential to reduce emissions*
- ✓ *Cost effectiveness of the emissions reductions based on the funding that the applicant is requesting*
- ✓ *Geographic diversity*
- ✓ *Fleet type diversity*
- ✓ *The applicant's ability to complete the project by the deadlines denoted herein*
- ✓ *Newness of the applicant*
- ✓ *The applicant's ability and plan to communicate their cleaner vehicle efforts to their local community*

LEARN ABOUT PAST FUNDING RECIPIENTS

You can learn about past recipients of RDE4HT funding by visiting the website, www.rde4ht.info. An interactive map provides information on past fleets who have received funding, including what year they received funding, what vehicles they received funding towards, and what kind of alternative fuel they used.



Reducing Diesel Emissions for a Healthier Tennessee

2021 APPLICATION – Vehicles/Engines/Conversions



Applicant Organization Information

Organization Name _____

EIN/TIN _____

Address _____

DUNS # _____

City _____ County _____

ST _____ Zip _____

Original Vehicles (for replacements) & Repower/Conversion Vehicles – See page 10 for guidance on the information requested below.

	Vehicle Identification Number – VIN	Engine Model Year	Vehicle Class based on GVWR	Engine Manufacturer	Average Recent Annual Miles	Average Recent Annual Fuel Use (gallons)	Average Recent Annual Idling Hours	Rebate Amount Requested (dollars)
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								
Total Funding Requested:								

What vehicles/engines & fuels do you plan to put in use? Provide vehicle and engine manufacturer information, and fuel or technology:

Does your fleet have an **idle reduction policy**? If so, please explain here:

To ensure that the addition of these vehicles is known in your region, **how do you plan to communicate the addition of the vehicles to your community?**
Please explain here:

You must check all of the below boxes to complete your application:

- I certify that the vehicle(s)/engine(s) listed for replacement are operational and meet the eligibility requirements as defined in this RFP.
- I certify that the vehicle engine(s) in the vehicle/engine list for replacement will be properly disposed of according to the requirements in the RFP.
- By signing, I certify that the statements and information provided in this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If selected for funding, I agree to provide the required documentation and assurances necessary for funding.

Applicant Signature

Authorized Representative Name _____

Authorized Representative Signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Primary Contact for the Applicant

Name _____

Title _____

Phone _____

Email _____

By signing the rebate application, applicants are certifying that the information provided is true to the best of their knowledge. ETCleanFuels reserves the right to request copies of documentation to verify the above information.

Reducing Diesel Emissions for a Healthier Tennessee

2021 APPLICATION – TSE & eTRU



Applicant Organization Information

Organization Name _____

EIN/TIN _____

Address _____

DUNS # _____

City _____ County _____

ST _____ Zip _____

Equipment – *Please include as much information as you can. Use additional space/documents as needed and include with your submission.*

	Equipment Name	Equipment Description	Number of Units	Expected Use Per Year (hours)	Expected Fuel Use Reduction Per Year (gallons)	Rebate Amount Requested (dollars)
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						
Total Funding Requested:						

Explain your Plan or Project. What are planning to do in requesting this equipment? Please explain the where, why, who and how.

Does your business/site have an **idle reduction policy**? If so, please explain:

To ensure that the addition of the equipment is known in your region, **how do you plan to communicate your project to your community?** Please explain:

You must check the below box to complete your application:

By signing, I certify that the statements and information provided in this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If selected for funding, I agree to provide the required documentation and assurances necessary for funding.

Applicant Signature

Authorized Representative Name _____

Authorized Representative Signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Primary Contact for the Applicant

Name _____

Title _____

Phone _____

Email _____

By signing the rebate application, applicants are certifying that the information provided is true to the best of their knowledge. ETCleanFuels reserves the right to request any additional documentation needed to verify the above information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & GUIDANCE -- VEHICLES

The application requires the applicant to supply all of the following information related to the vehicle(s) to be replaced:

1. **Vehicle Information Number (VIN)** – The VIN or vehicle identification number is most frequently located on the driver’s side dash and is visible through the windshield. The VIN can also be located on the vehicle title. The VIN is 17 letters and numbers and does not use the letters “I” or “O” so as to avoid confusion with the numbers 1 and 0.
2. **Engine Model Year** – The engine model year can be found on the plate attached to the engine itself, usually on the nameplate that is permanently affixed to the engine. The engine model year can differ from the vehicle model year.
3. **Vehicle Class, based on GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating)**

Class	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating Ranges
Class 3	10,001-14,000 lbs
Class 4	14,001-16,000 lbs
Class 5	16,001-19,500 lbs
Class 6	19,501-26,000 lbs
Class 7	26,001-33,000 lbs
Class 8	33,001 lbs+

The applicant should indicate class size on the application or may include the exact GVWR for the new vehicles.

4. **Engine Manufacturer** – The engine manufacturer is the manufacturer of the original engine. This information can usually be found on the engine nameplate.
5. **Average Recent* Annual Miles** – Annual miles traveled should be obtained from driver or maintenance logs.
6. **Average Recent* Annual Fuel Use** – Annual fuel consumption should be obtained from driver or maintenance logs.
7. **Average Recent* Annual Idling Hours** – Hours idling may be based on actual hours idling or estimated based on known usage.

** “Average Recent” – We would like to know the most recent full-year’s information you have on this vehicle. You may also use an average of the last 2 or 3 years if that provides a better picture of accurate use of the vehicle over time in the past.*