

## Project Green Fleet!

Now in its fifth year of operation, Project Green Fleet has been reducing emissions and improving health for years, but there are still a few buses in Minnesota that could use the tune-up.

The free service, offered by Minnesota Environmental Initiative, is aimed at bringing aging bus fleets closer to the environmental standards of their newer counterparts. The goal is to reduce tailpipe emissions, as well as emissions in

the cabin, where Minnesota's students spend an average of over an hour a day.

These reductions are a way to directly benefit students and employees. "Our company chose to participate in Project Green Fleet to take a proactive approach in helping reduce pol-

lutants in the air we breathe for the safety of our children and employees that are around the buses everyday," said Jim Koonst, owner of Stier Transportation Services in Belle Plaine. This strong environmental leadership, coupled with proactive community action, has been key to the program's success.

Diesel exhaust contains a variety of pollutants which contribute to the formation of ground level ozone, or smog. These pollutants harm health, increasing the risk of heart and lung disease, and are triggers for upper respiratory problems such as asthma. Children are especially vulnerable to these ailments as they breathe more air per pound than adults, and their bodies are still developing.

The voluntary measure has been successful due in part to the ease of Installation. Some transportation directors were unsure of the process at the beginning. "I wanted to see that other districts had done this successfully before we retrofitted our buses. But I should not have worried. Everything went really smoothly for us – the installations were seamless," said Denny Coughlin of Minneapolis Public Schools.

If you would like your school district to take part in Project Green Fleet, visit [www.projectgreenfleet.org](http://www.projectgreenfleet.org)

Any questions about Project Green Fleet can be answered by Jordan Hansen at 612-334-3388 ext. 104, or [JHansen@mn-ei.org](mailto:JHansen@mn-ei.org). ■



### Observances—May 2010

#### Clean Air Month

American Lung Association  
800-586-4872  
[www.lungusa.org/](http://www.lungusa.org/)

#### National Electrical Safety Month

National Electrical Safety Foundation  
703-841-3296  
[www.esfi.org/](http://www.esfi.org/)