

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: FW: Get more electric school buses on the road in BC
Date: September 20, 2022 3:26:57 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Batchelor <>
Sent: September 16, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>
Subject: Get more electric school buses on the road in BC

CAUTION: External Message

Dear MLA Doug Routley, (and 'cc'd to school board chair)

The current subsidy program is supporting about 20 e-buses per year. There are about 2,000 school buses. At this rate it will take 100 years to convert all of BC's school buses. Does this seem appropriate in a crisis?

I'm writing today because I want to see BC switch over to electric school buses on the shortest possible time frame. I applaud the BC government for the steps already taken - but for all school districts to make the switch, we need more funding and commitment.

Diesel exhaust is linked to a wide array of negative health impacts including asthma, allergies, lung cancer and heart problems. Children are even more vulnerable to these impacts, yet each day over 100,000 kids in BC are exposed to diesel fumes when they ride the school bus. Diesel pollution also contributes to climate change - which further impacts us in every aspect of our lives.

Switching to electric school buses will improve air quality on the bus, in school yards, and in communities where buses travel - and will help us meet our emission reduction goals. It also makes sense financially. Lower maintenance and running costs mean that school districts can save \$17,000 per year per electric bus, offsetting the higher purchase price. The economic benefits are even more apparent if you include the avoided health care costs associated with diesel pollution (estimated to be \$10,700 per bus, according to recent analysis by the Pembina Institute, which can be found at pembina.org/pub/electric-school-buses).

Making the switch will take leadership and commitment. I appreciate the BC government has already committing funding for electric school buses - but for the transition to happen in every district, and at the time scale we require, we need more. I'm urging you, as my elected representative, to push the electrification of school bus fleets forward.

This email has been copied to my school board chair to let them know I support electric school buses.

Sincerely,
Bruce Batchelor

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