



SCHOOL BUS ALTERNATIVE FUELS WORKING GROUP (P.A. 26-63)

Bureau of Air Management
July 29, 2026

AGENDA

- **2:30 Welcome and Introductions of Work Group Members**
- **2:35 Remarks from Acting Commissioner Emma Cimino**
- **2:45 School Buses: Some Background**
- **2:55 Review of the Charge of the Workgroup**
- **3:00 Timeline and Meeting Schedule**
- **3:10 Discussion**
- **3:30 Adjourn**



Roll-Workgroup Members



State Gov't: DEEP, DOT, DOE, DPH

Act. Cmr. Emma Cimino, Graham Curtis, Robin Cecere, DPH



Connecticut Green Bank

Kevin Moss



School Transportation Provider: DATTCO

Don Devivo



Municipal School Representative: Branford Public Schools

Blaize Levitan



Alt Fuels Industry: Clean Fuels Alliance America

Floyd Vergara



Environmental Organization: World Resource Institute

Brian Zepka, Sue Gander & Alice Kwak



Connecticut Clean Transportation Coalition

Paul Wessel, Daphne Dixon & Craig Peters



Other Interested Parties

CT Energy Marketers Association (CEMA): Chris Herb

Kolmar America, Inc.: Eli Petersen

WELCOME

Welcome and thank you for participating!

Convene Diverse Expertise. Appreciate the opportunity to convene participants with diverse expertise and real-world experience to identify barriers and practical solutions to implementation in formulating recommendations for future policy recommendations.

Collect the Latest Data and Information on Alternative Fuels and Technologies. Workgroup approach will provide a forum for information sharing and a data driven approach to evaluate alternative fuel options for CT's school bus fleet.

Utilize a Consensus-Based Approach. Utilize feedback from the working group to inform future policy that balances multiple goals including environmental protection, public health, economics, reliability as well as operational needs.



Substitute House Bill No. 5464

Public Act No. 26-63

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONCERNING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES, TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES AND RIDER SAFETY, TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM, ENCAMPMENTS, MARINE PILOT LICENSE FEES, MOTOR VEHICLE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT, DISTRACTED DRIVING, A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ACCESS TO PARKING FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES AND A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOL BUS FLEETS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

CONNECTICUT'S AIR QUALITY CHALLENGES



Connecticut has struggled to attain federal health-based standards for ground level ozone for 40 years.



American Lung Association's (ALA) State of the Air Report for 2026 gave failing grades for seven out of eight CT counties due to the number of ozone exceedance days.



Impacts of Climate Change Make it More Difficult to Attain Health-Based Air Quality Standards



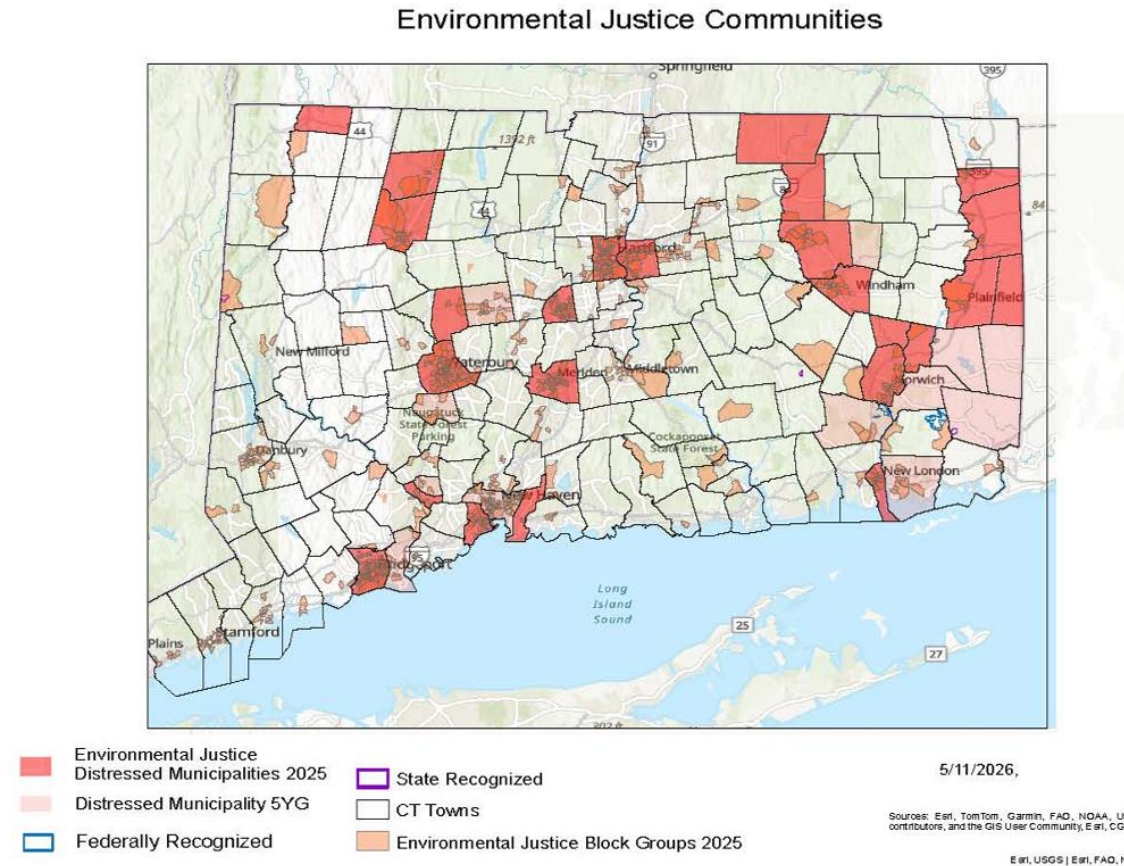
Health Impacts of exposure to diesel and tailpipe emissions can contribute to asthma, heart and lung disease and other respiratory illnesses.

Reducing school bus tailpipe emissions improves health outcomes for adults and children by lowering air pollution exposure.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL BUS GOALS

As Amended by P.A. 26-63

- 90% of school buses to be zero-emission by 2040
- Interim deadline for distressed municipalities:
 - **50% zero emission by July 1, 2035**
- Municipalities must submit plans to DEEP outlining how they will meet the zero-emission requirements
 - **July 1, 2029, deadline for distressed municipalities**
 - **July 1, 2035, for all other municipalities**
- Requires schools to implement safety plans that:
 - **Consider the age and development needs of the students to be transported on zero-emission buses**
 - **Includes procedures for evacuation in the event of fire**



CURRENT CLEAN SCHOOL BUS EFFORTS IN CONNECTICUT



DEEP

[CT Clean School Bus Website](#)

- **VW Grants**

- 4 school bus grants under administrative review for 63 new EV buses and 2 new propane buses
- 8 past awards for 113 buses of various fuel types

- **Federal Program Technical Support**

- **Bond Funded Grant Program**

- 6 active grants for 165 new EV buses

CGB (Kevin Moss – Connecticut Green Bank)

- **Federal Funding**

- **Fleet Accelerator**

- **Financing**

PURA

- **MHD Docket Decisions**

- **Pilot Program**

CHARGE OF THE WORKGROUP



- DEEP must establish a working group to evaluate the increased use of alternative fuels and technologies in school buses
- The fuels to be assessed include, but are not limited to:
 - **Biodiesel**
 - **Propane**
 - **Electricity**
- Report due February 1, 2027
- See: [P.A. 26-63, Sec. 36](#)

Workgroup Members-Others?



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DELIVERABLES OF THE WORKGROUP

A report to the environment, energy and technology and transportation committees of the General Assembly

The report must include:

- Findings and recommendations of the working group
- Any recommendations for regulatory or legislative action

Timeline constraints require this report be largely a DEEP-driven literature review including:

- Baseline information concerning fleet makeup
- Vehicle-fuel supply and availability,
- Fueling infrastructure, and
- Economics, barriers and pathways to adoption



TIMELINE AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Event/ Deliverable	Date	(Tentative) Topics
Kickoff Meeting	July 29	Introduction and Scope
Second Meeting	August 19	Fleets, Baseline, Case Studies
Third Meeting	September 16	Technical and Emissions Analysis (Fuel Availability & Supply)
Fourth Meeting	October 14	Technical and Emissions Analysis
Fifth Meeting	November 18	Economics, Procurement, Barriers, Pathways to Adoption
Sixth Meeting	December 16	Draft Recommendations
DEEP Staff Draft Report	By December 2026	
Draft Final Report	By Jan 1, 2027	For Workgroup Review
Final Meeting	January 13, 2027	Report Review
 Final Report Due by February 1, 2027 		

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING



Peer to peer conversation is essential and information sharing will be facilitated through a Teams/SharePoint environment to be created by DEEP.

Communications to DEEP staff should be sent to:

Wade.Packer@ct.gov

Nicole.Foertsch@ct.gov

Pete.Babich@ct.gov



Questions?