



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 20, 2022

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To Jumpstart New York's Electric School Bus Program, Governor Hochul Must Prioritize Equity

On Tuesday, Governor Hochul delivered her budget address for fiscal year 2023. As a response to her proposal to electrify the entire fleet of New York State's school buses by 2035, the ElectrifyNY coalition said:

"ElectrifyNY commends Governor Hochul's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing the public health impact from New York State's transportation sector with her pledge to transition the state's school buses to zero-emission vehicles fully by 2035. This is an ambitious but achievable deadline that will bring the way we transport our children into the 21st century while significantly curbing carbon and toxic air emissions across New York State.

"While the Governor's mandate is ambitious, it falls short of a full commitment to prioritize equity for communities that would stand to benefit the most from school bus electrification. We fear that without specific funding earmarked in the budget, the plan to fully electrify New York's school buses will not meet the state's own deadline.

"In order to fully benefit New York's communities, the transition to electric school buses must also center the needs of manufacturing, electrical, and school bus workers. The state should adopt a best-value procurement process for school buses and school bus services that will lower bus prices, increase quality and ensure high-quality training for drivers and technicians. As we fight for a clean energy future, New York State has a unique opportunity to create good, family-sustaining manufacturing jobs in the communities that need them most.

"Electrifying school buses can save districts money, but funding will be required to overcome the increased upfront costs expected for the next handful of years, especially in areas already struggling from the pandemic and general underinvestment. For an equitable statewide electric school bus program to exist, New York must invest the resources necessary so that school districts in disadvantaged communities can take full advantage of school bus electrification. New York State has no time to waste on false solutions or unfunded mandates in order to reach its climate goals."

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ElectrifyNY is a statewide coalition of advocates for environmental justice, public transportation, social justice, and good jobs fighting for a clean, equitable electric transportation future for New York. Learn more at [ElectrifyNY.org](https://www.electrifyny.org).