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Opportunities to improve air quality monitoring and reduce diesel emissions and air pollution in low-income and disadvantaged communities are coming to Michigan through recent federal climate investments in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Michigan has the 7th highest percent of adults living with asthma in the U.S. Adult asthma rates in Detroit are even higher – by about 46%. Black residents in Detroit are three times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma compared to white residents. Saginaw and Flint residents are also more likely to live with asthma, compared to the state average.¹

Poor air quality is more likely to affect low-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, contributing to higher cancer and cardiovascular disease rates.

Monitoring Air Pollution

- Three Detroit grantees - the City of Detroit, the Michigan Chapter of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, and the Green Door Initiative – have received **over \$1.1 million to improve air quality monitoring**. These projects will monitor indoor and outdoor air quality in the homes of older adults with respiratory illnesses, report city-wide air pollution monitoring with real-time data, and support community education and capacity building.²
- The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments received a **\$1 million grant for climate pollution reduction planning purposes** in the Detroit area.³

Reducing Emissions

- Detroit is purchasing 15 clean energy school buses through **\$5.9 million in funding from the Clean School Bus Program**. Flint has received additional funding to buy 10 electric school buses.⁴
- **In 2022, nearly \$7 million** was allocated to Detroit to **purchase electric buses and install charging stations**. An **additional grant of nearly \$31 million** was recently announced for the purchase of **21 hybrid electric buses and four hydrogen fuel cell buses**.⁵
- The City of Detroit was awarded **\$23.4 million in IRA funds to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure**. Transitioning to electric vehicles reduces greenhouse gas emissions while improving air quality.⁶
- The Port of Detroit is expected to receive **nearly \$22 million through the Clean Ports Program** to assist the port in transitioning to battery-electric cargo equipment, charging equipment, and solar arrays. The project will reduce air pollution in the area, and will include a community engagement and workforce development plan.⁷

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “[Most Recent Asthma State or Territory Data, 2021](#)”; Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, “[Detroit: The Current Status of Asthma Burden 2021 Update](#)”; Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, “[The Current Status of the Asthma Burden in Saginaw County](#),” September 2022; Asthma Initiative of Michigan for Healthy Lungs, “[Genesee County Asthma Statistics](#).”

2 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “[Selections for the ARP Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring Competitive Grant](#).”

3 Climate Power, “[The State of the Clean Energy Boom](#),” updated February 28, 2024.

4 Model D Media, “[Detroit wins \\$5.9M grant to purchase 15 clean-energy school buses](#),” January 18, 2024; ABC12 News, “[Federal Clean School Bus Program funds 10 electric buses for Flint Community Schools](#),” January 11, 2024.

5 U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, “[FY22 FTA Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant Awards](#)”; U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, “[FY24 FTA Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant Awards](#)”; The Detroit News, “[Detroit receives \\$30.8M grant to purchase 25 clean energy buses](#),” July 22, 2024.

6 City of Detroit, Office of Mobility Innovation, “[City of Detroit Awarded \\$23.4 Million in Federal Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program](#),” August 30, 2024.

7 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Selections for Nearly \\$3 Billion of Investments in Clean Ports as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#),” October 29, 2024.

