

# VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT FUND

*Promote Fair Use of Settlement Dollars*

## WHAT IS THE VW SETTLEMENT?

In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed a lawsuit against Volkswagen (VW) for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act. Emissions testing demonstrated that Volkswagen's vehicles were emitting levels of nitrogen oxides (NOx) in excess of EPA's compliance limits. Volkswagen was found guilty and agreed to spend up to \$14.73 billion to settle allegations of cheating emissions tests and deceiving customers.

## OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE BUSINESS CLIMATE

Use Volkswagen Settlement funding to improve mass transit in areas of historical nonattainment and to spark investment in electric vehicle infrastructure.

Focus VW settlement funding in regions like Northern Kentucky where they can have the greatest impact and go furthest in fulfilling the key purposes of the settlement.

## APPROACH TO TACKLE THE ISSUE

The KY Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) issued a plan that would direct 80% of the \$20M in VW Settlement fund to mass transit in nonattainment areas, such as NKY, 15% to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and 5% to administration of the plan.

Support the EEC's plan to prioritize projects in historic or current ground level ozone and fine particle nonattainment and/or maintenance areas.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER TO MY BUSINESS

NKY has seen a boom in economic development in recent years and, with major projects such as Amazon's Prime hub underway, mass transit needs are at an all-time high.

States surrounding Kentucky have seen a greater increase in the number of electric vehicles on the road. With projections of nearly a quarter million electric vehicles in Kentucky by 2030, and even more in other states, it is important that Kentucky builds out infrastructure to support both its citizens and those wanting to travel to the Commonwealth for work or tourism.

Boone, Kenton and Campbell Counties had 13.6% (493 out of 3,621) vehicles registered, which are eligible.

## WHAT ARE WE ASKING AN ELECTED OFFICIAL TO DO

Support a plan that focuses expenditures on mass transit in nonattainment areas, like NKY, that are experiencing significant economic growth.

Support a plan that invests in electric vehicle infrastructure to attract tourism and support a growing market.

Encourage a swift implementation and allocation of the funds in order to most effectively capitalize on the unprecedented economic growth Kentucky has seen in the past few years.

Support prioritizing projects in areas that had the highest number of Volkswagen vehicles registered that exceeded NOx emissions requirements.