



BUS APPLICATION BRIEF Plasma Air Enhances Indoor Air Quality on Buses



PASSENGER BUSES



passenger trips in 2022







0



480,000 SCHOOL BUSES

Bus transportation plays a crucial role in our nation's logistics, serving as a lifeline for many. Public buses alone account for nearly half of all public transit trips, with approximately 6.19 billion passenger trips recorded in 2022, as reported by public transit authorities.1



Additionally, yellow school buses, constituting the largest public transportation fleet in the country, total over 480,000 and transport around 26 million students to and from schools, according to the NYSBCA². Undoubtedly, buses are an indispensable mode of transportation for our nation.

The Importance of Clean Air Inside Buses

While efforts to reduce pollution from bus emissions have been ongoing, the quality of indoor air inside buses often goes unnoticed. Bus exhaust, a known source of pollution, not only contributes to outdoor pollution, but also affects the air quality within the bus cabin. Buses frequently idle at stops with open doors, allowing outdoor pollutants to enter the cabin, which can persist even after the doors are closed. Consequently, concentrations of pollutants such as fine and ultrafine particles (PM2.5 and UFPs, respectively), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and black carbon in public transit can often exceed recommended levels.

Exposure to traffic-related air pollution, or TRAP, has been linked to increased health risks, including pulmonary and cardiovascular issues³ such as asthma exacerbation, reduced lung function, heart attacks, progression of atherosclerosis, cardiovascular mortality, and even cognitive impairment and

poorer academic performance in students.⁴ Due to their chronic exposure to these pollutants, bus drivers and children, who are more vulnerable to the adverse effects of air pollution, face particular risks.

A study conducted by the U.S. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Coalition for Clean Air reveals that children riding a diesel school bus, which comprises 95% of all school buses in America, may be exposed to up to four times more toxic diesel exhaust than individuals standing or traveling beside the bus.⁵ Moreover, **researchers estimated that a child on a diesel school bus could encounter 23 to 46 times the cancer risk considered** "**significant**" by the U.S. Environmental Protection up to diesel exhaust pollution



Air Filtration Mechanisms on Buses

Agency (EPA).

Buses typically employ filtration to purify their air. However, the effectiveness of these filters in removing harmful pollutants and pathogens varies depending on their specific type and rating. Unfortunately, the filters used in buses often have lower ratings, and overall ventilation tends to be inferior compared to other forms of transportation.⁶

"Bus heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems draw in outside air, filter it, heat or cool it, and circulate it into the cabin or passenger area," explains Mike Sherber, VP of Engineering at Plasma Air. "If the school bus HVAC system prioritizes energy efficiency by reducing outside air



intake in cooling or heating the air within the cabin below those levels in ASHRAE Standard 62.1 without adequate air cleaning this could lead to unacceptably high concentrations of airborne pathogens and pollutants."

Revolutionizing Air Purification on Buses

Enter Plasma Air, the game-changer in enhancing indoor air quality. Known for its success in purifying the air in buildings, schools, and homes, Plasma Air's technology is equally effective in mobile environments. By combining its soft ionization technology with ventilation and filters, Plasma Air offers a safe, comprehensive, and cost-efficient solution to improve indoor air quality as part of a multi-layered approach in buses.



Plasma Air unit installed in a school bus produces safe positive and negative ions to reduce airborne pollution & pathogens.

Plasma Air's impact has already been felt in various bus systems across the country. For example, the Kalamazoo, MI school district, comprised of 25 schools, prioritized the health of its students by installing Plasma Air's 600 series air purifiers in all of its school buses during the pandemic. Additionally, Plasma Air's solutions were deployed throughout their schools, providing students and parents with the reassurance of a healthy environment both in and out of the classrooms.

Furthermore, Plasma Air's effectiveness in enhancing air quality extends beyond buses to other forms of transportation, such as trains. In fact, a third-party study conducted on the Zaragoza tram system in Spain demonstrated that **Plasma Air technology reduced the concentration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by an impressive 80%.**⁷





VALIDATED

ZERO OZONE EMISSIONS – MEASURED OZONE EMISSIONS FROM AIR IONIZER PA600 SERIES DURING USE PHASE DOES NOT EXCEED 0.005 PPM AS TESTED BY UL 807 UL COM/ECV

Plasma Air 600 Series by WellAir

Plasma Air 600 series products can help improve bus cabin air quality by cleaning the cabin air particularly with respect to airborne pathogens and pollutants beyond the dilutive effects of outdoor air and the low filter efficiencies provided by the base bus HVAC system.

- Fast and flexible installation
- No replacement parts
- Low energy consumption; < 1 watt
- Low maintenance
- UL 2998 validated for zero-ozone emissions



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- 4. The impact of Traffic-Related air pollution on child and adolescent academic Performance: A systematic review., Environment International, Volume 155, October 2021, 106696, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412021003214?via%3Dihub
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To delve deeper into the science behind Plasma Air's soft ionization technology, **learn more here.** For inquiries regarding installation and customization to accommodate buses or trains of any size, please reach out to our sales team at info@wellairsolutions.com.

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