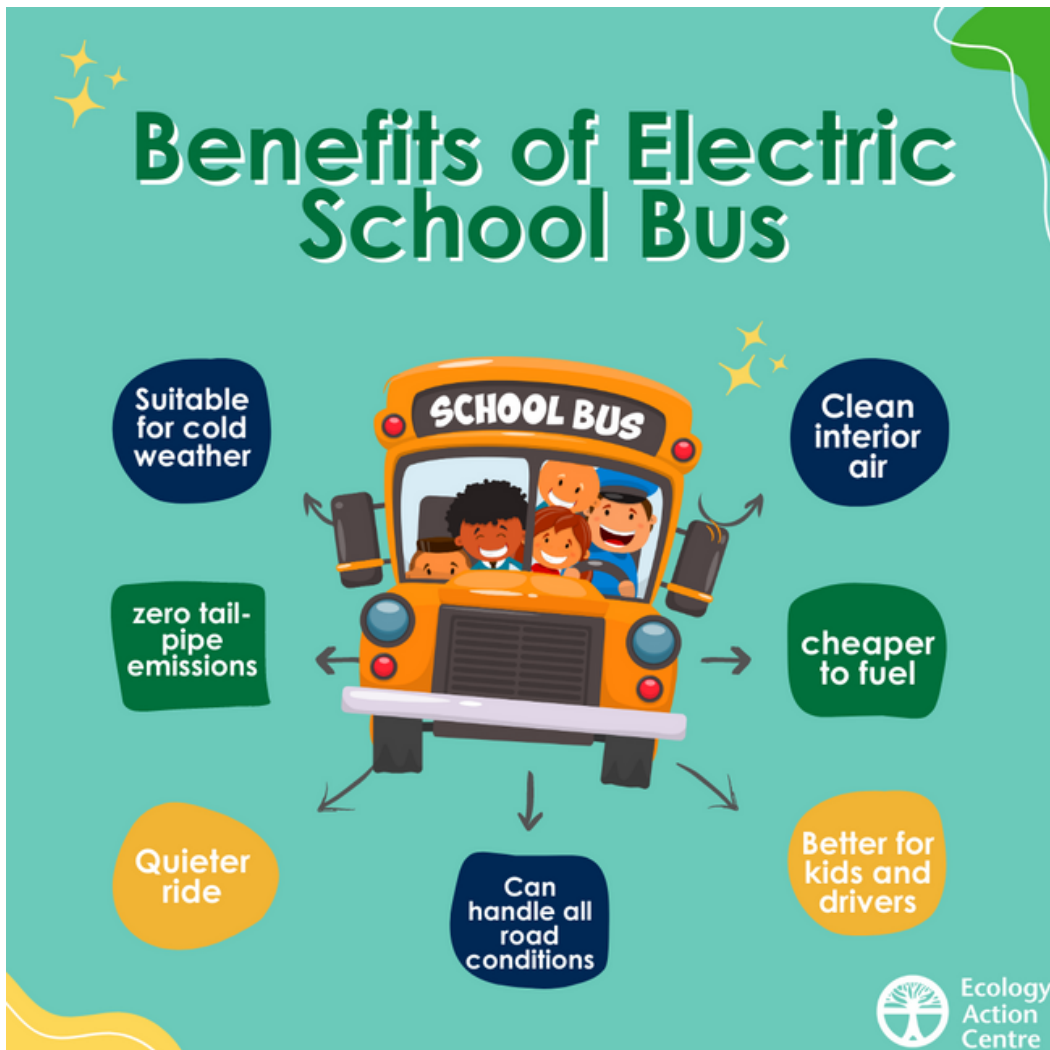


Fact Sheet: Health impacts

Diesel-powered school buses emit dangerous air pollutants and GHGs from their tailpipes. Children are particularly vulnerable to the diesel exhaust and in-cabin air exposure. In Canada, diesel emissions have been estimated to cause 2,200,000 acute respiratory symptom days, 170,000 asthma symptom days and 3,000 child acute bronchitis episodes every year.



One diesel school bus emits around 82 tonnes of Co2 over its 12-year expected lifespan – equivalent to the GHG emissions from 23 passenger vehicles over the same timeframe. Transportation-related air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) are associated with cognitive development disorders in school-aged children (including slower response time, ADHD, anxiety and depression). Children's brains and respiratory systems are especially sensitive to toxics in diesel exhaust.

A study published in 2019 found that substantial reductions in school bus diesel emissions resulted in more than a 30 per cent decrease in childhood bronchitis and asthma case.

School bus drivers have also reported how much safer they felt driving an electric school bus given how quiet it was. Electric buses will not only reduce long-term hearing loss experienced by drivers but also preserve children's health and environment.

The big yellow school buses moving around urban and rural areas are an important symbol of the Maritimes commitment to future generations and we must act now.

