

BUZZ

The Electric School Bus



By: Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District's Clean Air Ambassadors



Buzz wasn't just any school bus.

Buzz was the newest bus at Sunnydale School!

Buzz was quiet, smooth, and didn't blow out smoky air.

Buzz was special —

Buzz was electric!



The other buses were friendly,
but they were noisy and puffed out
smoky clouds from their tailpipes.

“VROOM VROOM,”
they rumbled every morning.

Buzz just
hummed softly:

“Zzzmmm...”



“Why are you so quiet?” asked a kindergartener climbing aboard.

Buzz beeped happily. “I don’t use diesel fuel, so I don’t have a loud engine or make smoky clouds. I run on **clean electricity!**”

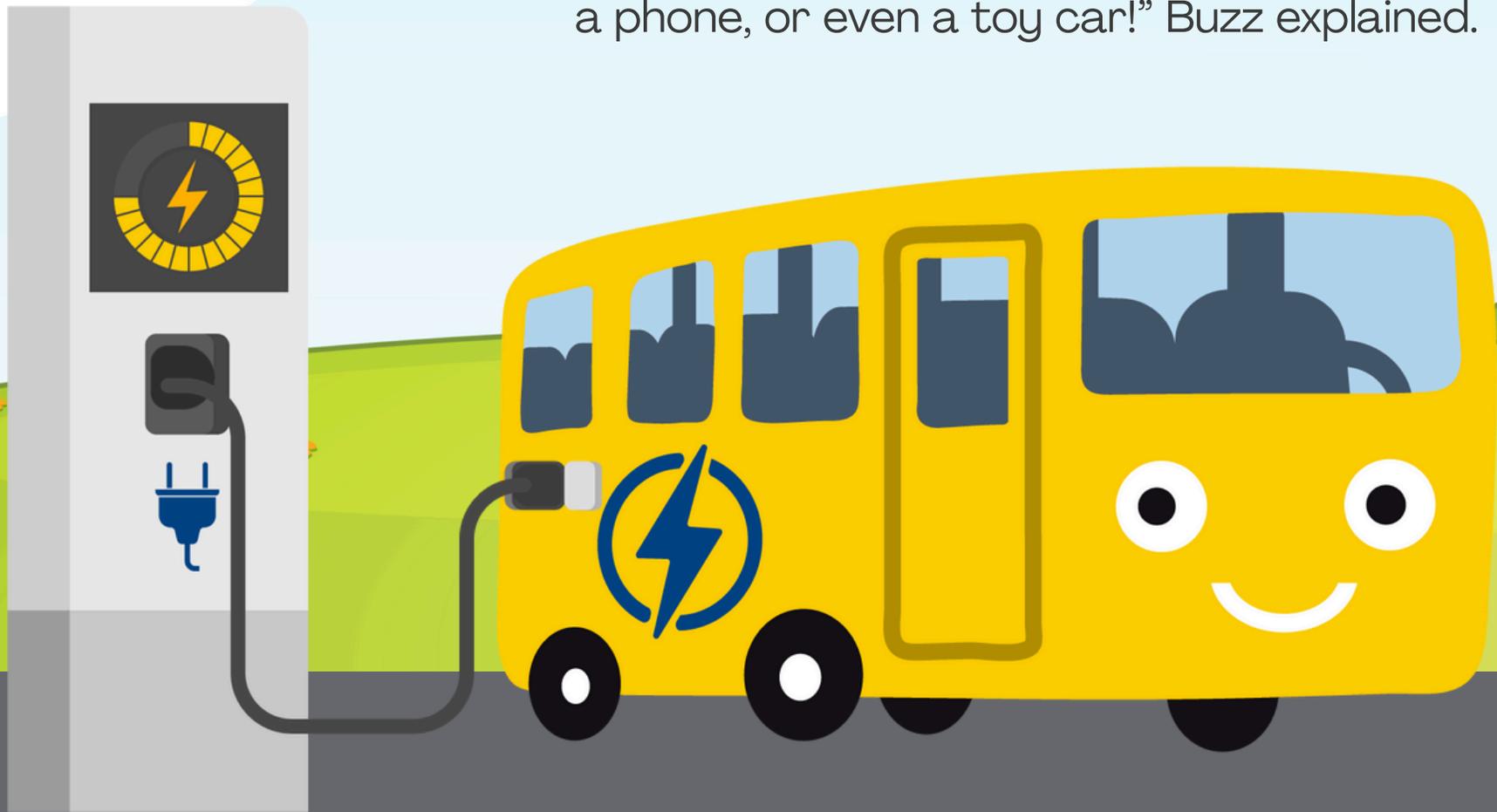


“Other school buses get their power from diesel engines, but I get mine from an electric motor and a battery!” Buzz explained.

“That’s awesome! But what happens if your battery runs out?” asked the kindergartener.



“When I need more power, I plug into a charger. Just like when you charge a tablet, a phone, or even a toy car!” Buzz explained.

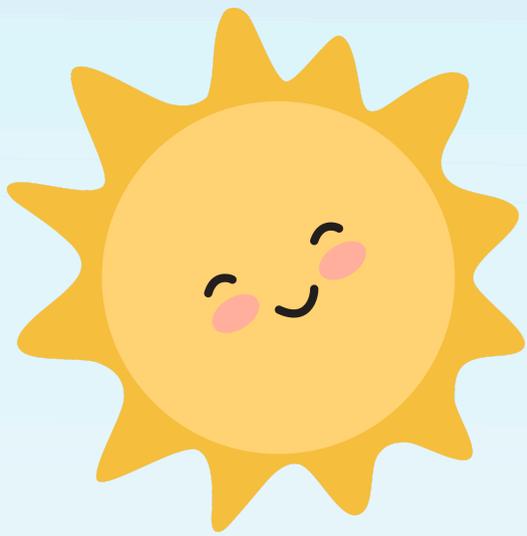


“Is that why you don’t make the air dirty like other buses that run on diesel?” asked the kindergartner.



“Exactly!” Buzz replied. “The smoky clouds from diesel buses are called **air pollution**,” said Buzz. “Air pollution is made of teeny-tiny bits called **particulate matter**. That’s a scientific word for little pieces of dust, smoke, and dirt that float in the air. If we breathe too much particulate matter, it can make our lungs feel yucky.”





“Since I don’t make air pollution, I help keep the air clean and healthy for kids, animals, and plants!” Buzz explained.



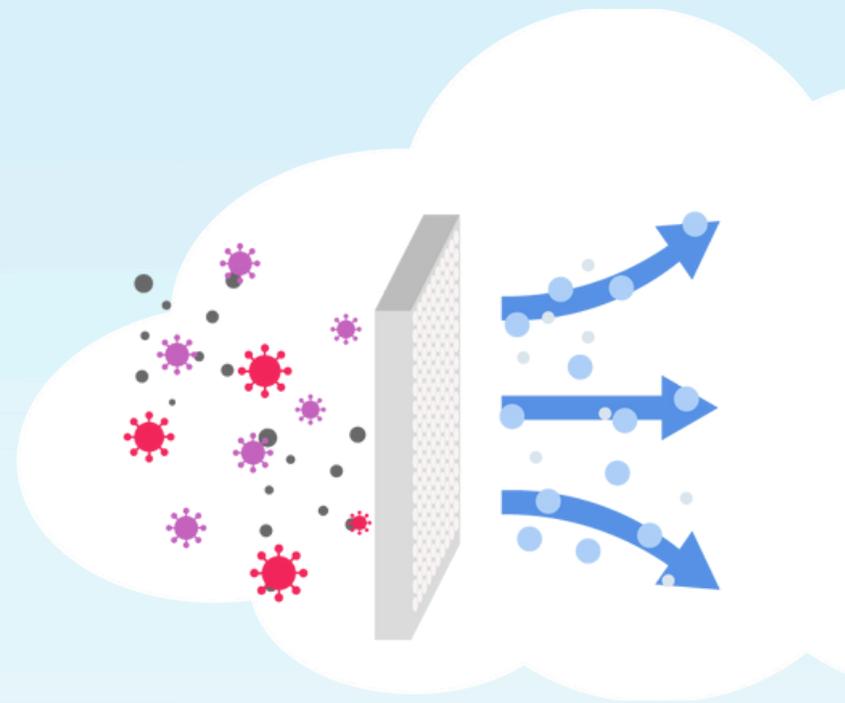
“What about the other buses?” asked the kindergartner. “How can we help them be better for the environment and not make air pollution?”





Buzz had an idea!

“We can give the other buses **filters**!
These filters will be placed near the engine
and catch tiny bits of smoke, dust, and dirt
before they can go into the air we breathe.



The students cheered.

They loved how Buzz kept the air clean and helped his other bus friends do the same.



Every day, Buzz zipped through the neighborhood, picking up kids, saving energy, and keeping the sky bright and blue.

Everyone was excited to go to school because they would get to ride with Buzz or with Buzz's cleaner, friendlier bus friends.



Even the kids who didn't ride the bus to school found ways to help the planet by walking, biking, scootering, or sharing rides with friends.



Buzz beeped proudly,

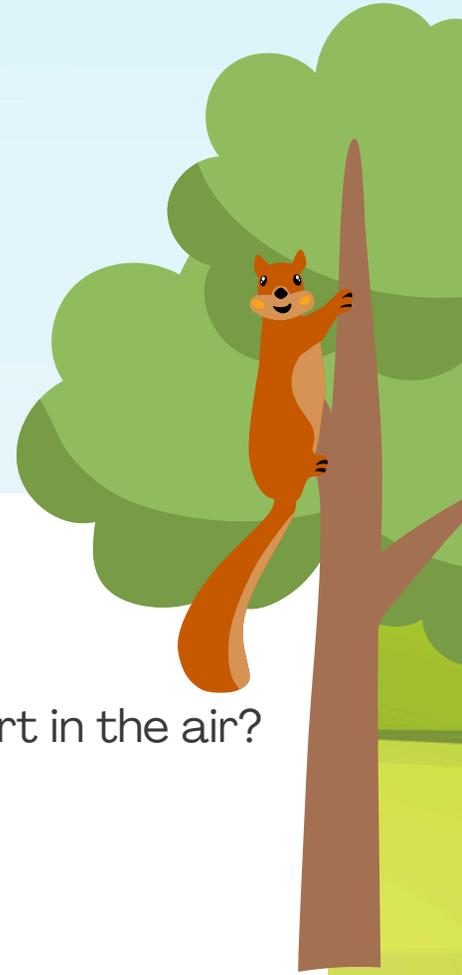
“Electric is the future!”

And it’s a cleaner, greener
ride for everyone!”





QUESTIONS



1. What is air pollution?
2. What is the scientific word for tiny pieces of smoke, dust, and dirt in the air?
3. Why can air pollution make it harder to breathe?
4. Why doesn't Buzz make air pollution like the other buses?
5. How does electricity help Buzz keep the air clean?
6. What are some ways you could travel to school that help keep the air clean?
7. Would you like to ride on an electric bus like Buzz?





air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**OUR MISSION:
TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FROM
THE EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION.**

The District's Clean Air Ambassadors program launched in Spring 2019 to bring local undergraduate college students to classrooms across Santa Barbara County to deliver lessons featuring air quality-focused curriculum to kindergarten through 3rd graders.



Scan the QR code to
learn more about us.

ourair.org

