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EPA recently announced the selection of 67 applicants to receive nearly \$1 billion through EPA's first Clean School Bus Program Grants Competition. The awards will help purchase over 2,700 clean school buses in 280 school districts serving over 7 million students across 37 states.

West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is a partnership between leaders from federal, state, Tribal, local and U.S. territorial government agencies, the private sector, academia, non-profit and environmental organizations committed to reducing medium- and heavy-duty diesel emissions and advancing clean air technologies, policies, and practices across Western North America.

The project is on the US territory's island of Ta'u, funded by the American Samoa Economic Development Authority and US Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Interior. The island has just 600 inhabitants but relies on more than 100,000 gallons of imported diesel a year.

The spokeswoman pointed out that although the two companies have only just taken the decision to merge at a shareholder vote on 17 November, this latest project follows on the heels of similar endeavours by the pair in Kaua'i, Hawaii where 52MWh of storage is paired with 13MW of utility's-scale solar in another diesel replacement configuration and another for the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative.

The SolarCity spokeswoman confirmed that the merger made jointly executed SolarCity's Tesla installations easier to find and execute. She said more projects like this one are likely to follow, saying that "we plan to continue work on projects like these to bring reliable and cost effective solar and storage solutions to communities across the globe".

The island of Ta'u is 4,000 kilometres from the coast of the US mainland and suffers frequent power outages and rationing. One villager interviewed by SolarCity for its blog said diesel is often saved for use in the mornings and afternoons only, while local water supplies are also reliant on electricity for pumping. While it didn't go into specific detail, the blog claims nearly 100% of the island's power will now come from renewable energy via the microgrid.

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