

To: MDC Stakeholders
From: Susan Stephenson (MDC/MARAMA)
Bill Jones (EPA Region 3)
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Subject: MDC December Update



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West Virginia Art Contest Promotes Anti-Idling

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Quality in conjunction with the West Virginia Department of Education, began offering Idle Free Zone signs to West Virginia schools at no cost to promote a West Virginia State Board of Education policy requiring the minimization of idling school bus engines. Thanks to a tremendous response, this project has been successful in placing signs in 53 of our 55 counties. The policy applies to all vehicles on school property, including delivery and maintenance vehicles, as well as personal vehicles.

In an effort to get the word out not only to school personnel, but parents as well to turn off their engines, we are enlisting the help of Kanawha County students between the ages of 5 and 18 years old. We are asking entrants to create original artwork depicting a predefined air quality topic to be used in the 2009-2010 Idle Free Zone School Year Calendar. Thirteen drawings – one for the cover and one for each month – will be chosen to be in a school year calendar that will be distributed to participating schools and handed out at various outreach functions.

For contest rules and entry forms please click [here](#).

Press Coverage in the [Huntington News](#).

Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Take Action to Reduce Smog

The nation's busiest port complex, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, inaugurated the Clean Truck Program last month. The program, built by environmentalists, drivers, shippers, community leaders and the ports during two years of contentious debates and legal challenges, put an immediate ban on 2,000 of the

region's most polluting trucks in the hope of decreasing emissions of harmful pollutants that cause premature deaths, asthma, and lung and throat cancer.

The Program is a key component of the Clean Air Action Plan designed to slash overall emissions at the ports by 45% by 2012. Under the program's first phase, trucks built before 1989 were banned. When fully implemented in 2012, only trucks meeting 2007 emissions standards will be allowed to enter the ports.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, whose district includes the Port of Los Angeles, stated, "No longer do we have to decide whether we can have good jobs or good health. Today, we can have both."

To learn more about the program, click [here](#).

United Parcel Service to Purchase Hydraulic Hybrid Vehicles

The United Parcel Service (UPS) announced its first purchases of hydraulic hybrid vehicles (HHV), which promises dramatic fuel savings and environmental benefits. UPS was the only company in its industry asked to road-test the technology two years ago and now becomes the first delivery company to place an order for HHVs. This effort is part of a public-private partnership to increase the commercial availability and use of alternative fuel vehicles

The technology, originally developed in a federal laboratory of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), stores energy by compressing hydraulic fluid under pressure in a large chamber. A high-efficiency diesel engine is combined with a unique hydraulic propulsion system, replacing the conventional drivetrain and transmission. The vehicle uses hydraulic pumps and hydraulic storage tanks to capture and store energy, similar to what is done with electric motors and batteries in a hybrid electric vehicle. In this case, the diesel engine is used to periodically recharge pressure in the hydraulic propulsion system. Fuel economy is increased in three ways: vehicle braking energy is recovered that normally is wasted; the engine is operated more efficiently, and the engine can be shut off when stopped or decelerating.

UPS's current "green fleet" totals more than 1,600 low-carbon vehicles, including all-electric, hybrid electric, compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) and propane-powered trucks. In addition to the hydraulic hybrid, UPS has road-tested hydrogen fuel cell delivery trucks. UPS began deploying alternative fuel vehicles in the 1930's with a fleet of electric trucks in New York City.

To learn more, click [here](#).

California to Reduce Emissions from Diesel Trucks

Drafts of two rulemakings designed to cut emissions from in-use heavy-duty diesel (HDD) trucks were released for public comment. Beginning in 2010, the proposal would require truck owners to install diesel exhaust filters on their vehicles, with almost all trucks upgraded by 2014. Engines older than the 2010 equivalent would be required to be turned over on a staggered schedule between 2012 and 2022. In addition, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase fuel economy, long-haul truckers would be required to install fuel-efficient tires and aerodynamic devices on their trailers. To help truck owners with compliance costs, California is making over \$1 billion in funding opportunities available.

To learn more about these draft rulemakings or comment, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Idle Reduction Resources Released

Did you know that idling a vehicle for two minutes uses about the same amount of gas as driving one mile? Idling also produces harmful pollutants that can cause health issues, especially in children. Numerous school districts have established ant-idling or idle reduction policies for vehicles operating on school grounds. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has created an Idle Reduction Fact Sheet for Schools that includes information and a draft policy for reducing idling.

The [Idle Reduction Fact Sheet for Schools](#) and the [Draft School Idle Reduction Policy](#) are available online.

National Biofuels Action Plan Released

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released the National Biofuels Action Plan, this interagency plan details the joint efforts of federal agencies “to accelerate the development of a sustainable fuels industry.” Among the conclusions reached by USDA and DOE in the report is that “expanding biofuels usage to 36 billion gallons per year over 15 years on a sustainable basis will be a key component to America’s movement toward clean, affordable and secure energy solutions. Success will require a coordinated approach between public and private sectors to advance biofuel technologies and create market conditions that will enable their use.”

The report can be accessed [here](#).

2009 Fuel Economy Guide Published

Are you experiencing the phenomenon known as “Pain at the Pump?” Are you interested in fuel-efficient diesel vehicles? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you will be interested in the 2009 Fuel Economy Guide by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Today’s diesel vehicles are clean, quiet, fun-to-drive, and fuel-efficient, which could help alleviate your pain at the pump. Diesel vehicles typically get 20 to 40 percent more miles to the gallon than a comparable gasoline engine. This guide will help consumers make well-informed choices when purchasing vehicles. Included in the 2009 fuel economy leaders are diesel vehicles certified to EPA’s tightest emissions standards.

Click [here](#) for more information.

EPA 2008 SmartWay Excellence Awards Announced

The EPA 2008 SmartWay Excellence Awards recognize groups for their superior efforts to reduce fuel use and lower carbon emissions from freight transport. EPA presented 27 awards to businesses and organizations. Awardees engaged in numerous activities to make transport smarter, from optimizing delivery routes to investing in trucks that qualify for the U.S. EPA SmartWay Certified mark (the cleanest, most fuel efficient available today) to reducing unnecessary idling and providing more flexible shipping and receiving practices.

SmartWay partners are collectively saving more than 595 million gallons of diesel fuel each year and slashing fuel costs by at least \$2.5 billion annually. “The companies we recognize today have learned to do business the SmartWay, and will be leaders in their fields,” said Robert J. Meyers, principal deputy assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation. “SmartWay is smart not just for the firms who save on fuel costs, but for the American environment and economy.”

For more information on the SmartWay program and award recipients, click [here](#).

EVENTS

MDC Forum Calls Set for January

Goods Movement – January 8, 10:30-12:00

School Bus – January 28, 10:30-12:00

CARB Seminar Series: Characterization of the Off-Road Equipment Population

Rick Baker, Eastern Research Group, Inc., Austin Texas

Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:00 a.m.

Off-road equipment is a major contributor to pollution levels in California, generating ozone precursors, particulate matter, toxics, and carbon dioxide. These equipment are found in a wide variety of applications, including lawnmowers, bulldozers, aircraft support equipment, and portable generators, among other categories. Off-road equipment is used in essentially all types of businesses, as well as in residential applications. Given the large number of engines involved, and the highly diverse set of operators, off-road engines have proven more difficult to characterize and control than many other emission categories.

In order to develop a more comprehensive and consistent data set of engine characteristics and activity, the Air Resources Board contracted with Eastern Research Group (ERG) to conduct a study of off-road engines less than 175 horsepower operating in the state. The study was conducted in two phases, with equipment operator surveys and equipment instrumentation techniques developed and tested under Phase I, and full scale data collection and analysis taking place under Phase II. The study results include detailed information on equipment characteristics and activity, including application type, horsepower, and hours per year of use. Surrogates were developed to extrapolate the survey data to statewide totals, as well as to allocate equipment populations to the county level. Instrumentation of data loggers was also performed to collect engine-on time, in-use RPM and exhaust gas temperature data for different types of construction equipment. Based on the study findings, recommendations are provided for updating the current OFFROAD emission factor model, as well as the list of federally preempted off-road equipment in California.

For more information about the event click [here](#).

Reminder – Sign up to Receive Forum Specific Information

If you would like to receive forum specific emails such as call agendas, funding notices, etc. please send [Susan Stephenson](#) or [Bill Jones](#) an email and we will add you to the appropriate group.

Web Site Updates – Refresh Early and Often

As MDC continues update its website please remember that it is important to “refresh” your machine on a regular basis. We have not automated our “last updated” section on the bottom of each page. So every time we make a change to the page this date will automatically change.