

Vermont Coalition to Reduce Vehicle Idling (VCRVI) Meeting Minutes,
November 4, 2009 Air Pollution Control Conference Room, Waterbury

Attendance: Paul Markowitz, Deb Sachs, Tom Moye, Don Ostler, Karen Glitman, Rebecca Ryan, Jennifer Green, Wayne Michaud

Updates:

- Karen Glitman announced that UVM Transportation Research Center (TRC) received a grant (\$54,000) from High Meadows Foundation to implement focus groups in Rutland to look at idling behavior (especially why people idle). It will design a campaign from the results.
- Karen said UVM has \$2,000 through its Sustainability Program to implement an anti-idling campaign (Gioia Thompson is lead).
- Colchester town giving money to its school district to develop eco driving component as part of driver's education. It will share the program statewide.
- Eco driving 4-hour training presented by UVM TRC look at air pressure, driving habits, etc. and impact on efficiency.
- Tom Moye said DEC website has information for teen drivers and it has received fairly good feedback. The original intent was to get it into driver's education curriculum. Instructors can direct teens to website.
- UVM TRC opened an air quality lab (biodiesel, gas analyzer). More information is available on website.
- Idle Free VT: Wayne shared an article from the Burlington Free Press and the Rutland Herald ran Wayne's op ed. Dummerston implemented a no idling resolution. He replenished pamphlets in DMV (paid by Sierra Club) and his website has had 2,861 unique visits. Environmental Action Conference (Nov 7): Idle Free VT and ALA are co-sponsoring. The Vermont Law School is hosting a 4H Youth Environmental Council who is studying vehicle idling. The group will meet the same day as the conference. He, Reps. Dave Sharpe and Mike Mrowicki will talk to them about idling and H.97.
- Deb Sachs said the VT Community and Energy Conference will be held in Lake Morey on Dec 5. She wondered if one of the towns could facilitate a round table (not fully developed yet) about idling. Register at regonline.com/VTenergy. There are now 90 energy committees in state now.

Vermont Idle Free Fleets Campaign:

- The American Lung Association received a \$15K grant from DEC. Wayne Michaud is coordinator. Campaign will focus on companies with diesel fleets in Rutland and Chittenden counties with the goal of 12-16 new companies adopting new policy. Don will provide data and model policy. Deb and Paul said VECAN can promote in both counties. Wayne will send information to Paul. Karen may have a list of fleet operators. Other suggestions for outreach included: Vermont Local Roads, VBSR and Rutland Herald (Rebecca has contact), town clerks/administrator, Rutland Solid Waste District. Group discussed measuring outcomes.

Other efforts:

- Burlington: Jennifer said no idling regulation is now enforceable year round. The Department of Public Works approved it and language was updated.
- Paul said he is contacting Dept. of Ed, school boards assoc, superintendents association, etc to ask them to remind members of the school bus idling law (and voluntary vehicle policy) in their newsletters. Deb suggested the school boards insurance trust as a good resource. It gives points back to school boards for good behavior (i.e., reducing exposure to toxins). This is a direct incentive.

H.97:

The group had a lively discussion about the language. Should an educational component be added? How will sleeper berth be addressed (noted that language about health and safety currently in bill should address the issue)? How prescriptive does the legislation need to be or should ANR be required to deal with specifics. Potential advocates/partners to help with bill passage: 4H students, energy committees, ALA grass root efforts, VPIRG, VNRC, truckers (GMCR, Joe Perrato (Country Home Products), Vermonters for Clean and Healthy Environment.

Other business:

Promoting idling policy, how can we help? Rebecca will send statement of purpose: to all. Work with towns and town energy committees to adopt ordinances and/or resolutions directly with select boards or via article petitions for town meetings. Wayne will send his resolution to Paul and he will send it to VECAN town energy committees list. Vermont League of Cities and Towns provides policy but Deb said mostly around governing. However, VLCT could be potential stakeholders. We thought it would be a good idea for this group to summarize idling reduction policies across the state to pass on for towns to consider.