

EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND CAMPAIGNS

Idle-Free VT Launching “Idle Free from the Start”

Idle-Free VT is taking a new approach to the problem of unnecessary idling with a program designed to eliminate the habit before it's ingrained. Idle Free from the Start seeks to educate new and future drivers about the benefits of idling reduction.

Idle Free from the Start has three key goals: 1. Work with the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles to increase coverage of idling awareness in the state's drivers manual; 2. Increase idling awareness, along with other eco-driving behaviors, in drivers education curricula; and 3. Work with Vermont's science educators to include lesson plans and projects related to transportation air quality in their curricula.

Wayne Michaud, Idle-Free VT's director, says that the program will help put new drivers “on the right path toward operating their vehicles responsibly. While safety is the main goal in educating new drivers, they also need to be made aware of the significant benefits resulting from efficient vehicle operation, which includes avoiding excessive idling when parked.”

For more information about the project, please go to <http://idlefreevt.org/idle-free-from-the-start.html>. (Graphic: Courtesy of Idle-Free VT)



PORTS

New No Idling Zones at Peace Bridge

As part of an initiative to improve air quality, the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (also known as the Peace Bridge Authority [PBA]) has instituted no-idling zones at the Peace Bridge, a U.S.-Canada border spanning the Niagara River between Buffalo, New York, and Fort Erie, Ontario.

The PBA will develop an implementation program, including signage, communications, and staff training, to educate drivers. The previous

restriction had prohibited idling more than 5 minutes. David Rivera, Buffalo, New York, Common Council Member said, “By banning [idling] outright, the PBA has made their policy easier to enforce.” The policy applies to secondary customs plaza areas and duty-free parking lots.

Earlier this summer, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) and PBA conducted a series of joint enforcement sweeps aimed at heavy-duty diesel vehicles at the Peace Bridge plaza.