

The B SCHOOL Breeze

Summer/Fall 2006



Teachers, students & volunteers wanted for Maine schools' no-idling project

In September of 2006, **Clean Air Zone** facilitators will kick off the Maine No-Idling Project focused on improving health by reducing vehicle idling at schools and in communities.

"It's for the health of the children."

You are the key to make the program a success! We need teachers interested in engaging their students in conducting health related research, educating drivers and clearing the air in their community and schools.

Your school's Leadership Team will be provided with community-based social marketing training and tools (such as magnets, tip cards, pledge cards, etc.) to kick off your own campaign. What a great service learning opportunity in line with the new Learning Results!

65,000...

the number of school absence days due to asthma each year in Maine

Clean Air Zones

Students and volunteers can help people understand the importance of clean air to everyone's health. Small, seemingly insignificant changes in behavior, such as not idling a car, can add up to substantial reductions in air pollution and money spent at the gas pump.

Teachers can incorporate the project into a larger unit of study about Transportation & the Environment and will help students develop stewardship skills to have an impact on the world around them.

Classroom activities are aligned with Learning Results and address topics such as energy, air quality & health, ozone and particulate pollution, global climate change and air toxics.

What is Idling?

Have you ever left a car running while...

- ✓ waiting to pick someone up?
- ✓ running errands?
- ✓ warming up or cooling the interior?



Idling means leaving a vehicle's engine running when it is in park or not in use.



Our Mission: To protect and enhance air quality and health in Maine communities.

The Maine Clean Air Zones project is sponsored by the Maine DEP, American Lung Association of Maine, Maine Energy Education Program and Kids in Transportation of York and Cumberland Counties, Maine Council of Churches and Maine Chapter of Sierra Club who are collaborating on this effort.

Building Healthier Communities



You can start a local Clean Air Zone campaign at your local schools; spreading the word neighbor to neighbor and establishing no-idling zones in your community.

Breathe Easier, Save Money, and Protect our Air and Health by turning off your vehicle whenever parked.



There are many good reasons not to idle.

- ◆ Idling causes pollution.
- ◆ Pollution can cause health problems.
- ◆ Idling wastes expensive fuel.
- ◆ Excessive idling can damage engine components.
- ◆ Conserving fuel promotes energy independence.

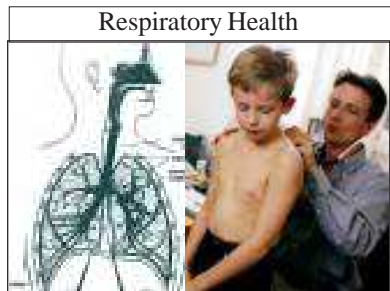
The Problem: Air Pollution & Our Health



In Maine, 13.2% of children suffer from asthma - that's the highest rate in New England.



Children are more sensitive to pollution; they breathe 50% more air per pound of body weight.



Vehicle emissions can trigger asthma attacks and other heart and breathing health problems.



Vehicle emissions contribute particulates and air toxics, as well as nitrogen oxides which react with sunlight to form ozone pollution.



Vehicle or mobile sources contribute more than 50% of our air pollution emissions here in Maine.