



Clean Air Zone Idaho

Get into the Zone!

January 2008

Are You "In the Zone"?

Clean Air Zone, Idaho's voluntary program to reduce children's exposure to diesel/vehicle exhaust through anti-idling programs, alternative fuels, and cleaner technologies for school buses, is entering its 4th year, and more schools than ever are "in the zone." *Clean Air Zone* now boasts 295 schools and child care facilities that have made a commitment to cleaner air for their nearly 116,000 students.



If your school is not yet "in the zone," it's never too late to join! By joining *Clean Air Zone*, your school can make a positive difference in Idaho's air quality, and especially in air quality at your school. By reducing idling on school grounds, you reduce the amount of pollutants your students breathe, as they are exposed to less exhaust from idling vehicles. Children are especially sensitive to air pollution, as their lungs are still developing and they breathe at a faster rate than adults.

Not idling also saves gas and money. If a car will be idling for more than 10 seconds, it is more efficient (burns less gas) to turn it off and re-start when it is time to leave than to idle. With today's high gas prices, this small savings can add up quickly at the pump.

As a member of the *Clean Air Zone* network of schools, your school will receive street signs reminding parents and bus drivers to turn off their engines, a tool kit with information you can pass along to parents, air quality lesson plans, and *The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up* books for your school library (elementary schools only; see related article, page 2).

Districts that join are also eligible for grants to retrofit old diesel school buses with cleaner burning technologies.

Call (208) 373-0146 or visit www.deq.idaho.gov/air/educ_tools/clean_air_zone_idaho/index.cfm to sign up or learn more.

**Do you have old diesel school buses?
Would you like them to pollute less?
Would you like to do it for free?**



Grant money is available to retrofit old diesel school buses to make them burn cleaner and pollute less. There are no out-of-pocket expenses to the district or school.

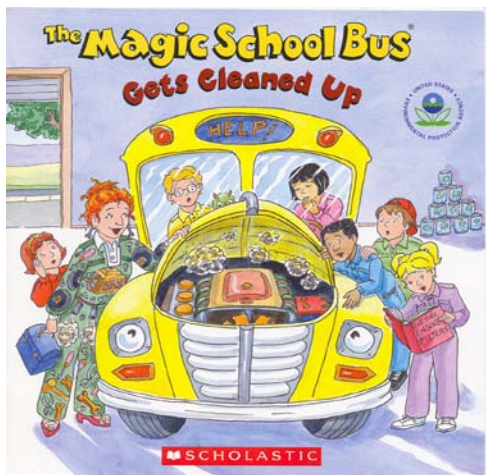
Contact Mike Edwards at (208) 373-0502 or mike.edwards@deq.idaho.gov for more information.

In this newsletter...

- ✓ *The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up!* Learn how you can get your free copies of this new children's book.
- ✓ Ways to remind parents about your school's no-idle policy.
- ✓ Resources to learn about idling, air quality, asthma, vehicle emissions, and more!



The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus USA program (the federal equivalent of Idaho's *Clean Air Zone* program) has partnered with Scholastic to write, illustrate, and publish a new book in the popular *Magic School Bus* children's series. In this acclaimed educational series of books and videos for children from kindergarten through fourth grade, a teacher named Ms. Frizzle takes her class on science-oriented field trips, riding in their magical school bus.

In *The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up*, the children and Ms. Frizzle explore the pollution emitted from their own diesel school bus and learn about how to reduce emissions as they find themselves traveling through a diesel engine. The children learn about idle reduction and ways the community can help reduce health risks from diesel exhaust. At the end

of the book, the Magic School Bus gets its own pollution control device, a diesel particulate-matter filter.

This special-edition book is intended to increase awareness of the importance of reducing diesel emissions and is available for free. If you would like two free copies of *The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up* for your elementary school library, contact Joanna Pierce at (208) 373-0146 or joanna.pierce@deq.idaho.gov.

The "Real" Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up, Too!

In addition, Scholastic operates a traveling science laboratory housed in a yellow school bus and modeled after the Magic School Bus concept. The bus tours the United States, offering hands-on science lessons to children at schools, fairs, and other community events.

This traveling bus was retrofitted with a diesel particulate filter, similar to the story line in *The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up*. With the filter on the engine exhaust system, particulate matter from this real bus will be reduced by up to 90%.



Clean Air Zone... ...It's Not Just for Schools Anymore

Would you like to breathe easier at parks, in parking lots, and in drive-throughs, too? Any community, business, or other facility in Idaho can get "in the zone" and request *Clean Air Zone* signs, posters, brochures, and/or window decals to remind patrons to turn off their engines.

To join the *Clean Air Zone* community program and order signs or other materials for locations other than schools, call (208) 373-0146 or email joanna.pierce@deq.idaho.gov.

Non-school facilities receive signs with pictures of cars instead of buses, but the message is the same... Turn off your engine!

If your school doesn't have busing and would like car signs instead of bus signs, let us know when you join. However, please still sign up through the *Clean Air Zone* school program so you receive appropriate school/education-related materials.



REMINDER

They say elephants never forget, but the rest of us aren't that talented. Remember to remind your students' parents about your school's no-idle policy from time to time.

This is particularly important when the new school year starts, but remains important throughout the year as new students arrive and circumstances change.

Remind parents that turning off their engines not only helps protect their children's health and the environment, but also saves gas and money. If a car will be idling for more than 10 seconds, it is more efficient to turn it off and re-start when it is time to leave than to idle.

As winter gives way to spring, parents who kept their engines running due to cold weather may be more willing to turn them off during the mild spring weather. They may need a nudge to change their habits, so try...

- Including a note in your school's newsletter or sending a letter home with students to help parents remember what those "Clean Air Zone" signs on your property are all about. Don't forget to let staff and students know as well!
- Piggybacking on an existing event. For example, use World Health Day (April 7) as a time to celebrate healthy air at your school and remind parents to "get into the zone."
- Empowering parents, staff, volunteers, and students with the authority to provide gentle reminders to drivers who forget to turn off their engines.
- Providing incentives to your students. Recognize students whose parents are "caught" with their engines off on school grounds.

Air Quality Resources

Looking for additional resources on air pollution, no-idle zones, or diesel retrofit technology? Try these for starters...

Air pollutants www.deq.idaho.gov/air/prog_issues/pollutants/health.cfm

Air pollution and health www.deq.idaho.gov/air/prog_issues/pollutants/health.cfm

Air quality alerts: Information for schools www.deq.idaho.gov/air/educ_tools.cfm

Air quality educational tools www.deq.idaho.gov/air/educ_tools.cfm

Air Quality Index: Check your local air quality www.deq.idaho.gov/air/aqindex.cfm

Air Quality Index: What is it? www.deq.idaho.gov/air/data_reports/monitoring/aqi.cfm

Asthma www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/portal/alias_Rainbow/lang_en-US/tabID_3395/DesktopDefault.aspx

Clean Air Zone Idaho (communities and businesses) www.deq.idaho.gov/air/assist_citizen_comm/clean_air_zone_idaho/index.cfm

Clean Air Zone Idaho (schools) www.deq.idaho.gov/air/educ_tools/clean_air_zone_idaho/index.cfm


Clean School Bus USA www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/index.htm

Clean School Bus USA, Anti-Idling Program www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/antiidling.htm

Diesel retrofit program (Idaho) www.deq.idaho.gov/air/educ_tools/clean_air_zone_idaho/diesel_retrofit_program_brochure2.pdf

Diesel retrofit technologies www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/retrofit.htm

Vehicle emissions and air quality www.deq.idaho.gov/air/prog_issues/pollutants/vehicles.cfm



**What's even better than not idling?
Not driving at all!**

Encourage your students to walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus to school whenever possible.



Participating Clean Air Zone Idaho Schools and School Districts

Schools and Child Care Facilities

Adams Elementary, Boise
Early Learning Center, Pocatello
Falcon Ridge Public Charter, Kuna
Foothills School of Arts and Sciences, Boise
Franciscan Cre-Act, Pocatello
Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Pocatello
Grace Lutheran School, Pocatello
Hillcrest Elementary, Boise
Hillside Jr. High, Boise
Holy Spirit Catholic, Pocatello
Just For Kids Child Care, Boise (15 facilities)
KASP/Wesleyan Preschool, Boise
Koelsch Elementary, Boise
Lakewood Montessori, Boise
Liberty Elementary, Boise
Lowell Elementary, Boise
Magic Valley High, Twin Falls
Monroe Elementary, Boise
Nampa Christian Schools, Nampa
Northview Montessori, Boise

Oregon Trail Elementary, Twin Falls
Ririe Elem, Middle, and High, Ririe
Riverside Elementary, Boise
Roosevelt Elementary, Boise
Sorenson Elementary, Coeur d'Alene
South Jr. High, Boise
Syringa Middle School, Caldwell
Taft Elementary, Boise
Timberline High School, Boise
Trail Wind Elementary, Boise
White Pine Elementary, Boise

Districts

Basin #72 (2 schools)
Blackfoot #55 (11 schools)
Blaine County #61 (7 schools)
Bonneville Joint #93 (13 schools)
Cassia County #151 (17 schools)
Culdesac Joint #342 (1 school)
Firth #59 (3 schools)
Genesee #282 (1 school)
Grace Joint #148 (4 schools)

Idaho Falls #91 (19 schools)
Kamiah Joint #304 (3 schools)
Kellogg #391 (5 schools)
Kuna #3 (7 schools)
Lake Pend Oreille #84 (12 schools)
Lewiston Independent #1 (11 schools)
Madison #321 (11 schools)
Meridian #2 (43 schools)
Moscow #281 (7 schools)
Mountain Home #193 (9 schools)
Nampa #131 (21 schools)
Nez Perce Joint #302 (2 schools)
Orofino Joint #171 (7 schools)
Post Falls #273 (8 schools)
Prairie, Cottonwood #242 (3 schools)
Preston #201 (5 schools)
Rockland #382 (1 school)
Salmon #291 (5 schools)
Shelley #60 (4 schools)
Swan Valley #92 (1 school)
Weiser #431 (4 schools)
West Side Joint #202 (3 schools)

If your school or district would like to join *Clean Air Zone*, contact (208) 373-0146 or joanna.pierce@deq.idaho.gov.

Participating Clean Air Zone Idaho Communities, Businesses, and Facilities

Communities

American Falls
Boise
Cascade
Driggs
Emmett
Franklin
Garden City
Grace
Grand View
Hagerman
Hailey

Hansen
Horseshoe Bend
Iona
Island Park
Kendrick
Kuna
Moscow
Mountain Home
Nampa
Parma
Paul
Pinehurst

Plummer
Pocatello
Post Falls
Rexburg
Soda Springs
Spirit Lake
Sun Valley
Tensed
Weiser
Wendell

Businesses and Other Facilities

Bogus Basin Ski Resort, Boise
Boise Co-Op, Boise
Boise Foothills Learning Center, Boise
Citizens Bank, Pocatello
Conoco/Subway, Preston
Exxon/Chesterfield, Preston
Gold Fork Hot Springs, McCall
JR Simplot, Pocatello
Larry's Pharmacy, Preston
La Tienda, Franklin

Maag Prescription & Medical Supply, Preston
Zions Bank, Pocatello

Universities

Boise State University
Idaho State University

Do you know of a community, business, or facility that would like to join? Have them contact (208) 373-0146 or joanna.pierce@deq.idaho.gov.

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