

Vermont No Idling Coalition Group

Notes from Meeting of 4-27-09

Attendees:

- Karen Glitman, VT Clean Cities Coalition, VT Transportation Research Center, UVM
- Tom Moye, Air Pollution Control Division, VT Department of Environmental Conservation
- Wayne Michaud, Idle-Free Vermont
- Rebecca Ryan, American Lung Association
- Don Ostler, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
- Paul Markowitz, VT Sierra Club

Introductions: Participants went around the table and shared information on their work and their interest in reducing idling. In sum, reduced idling appeals to groups for a variety of reasons, including: reducing pollution, saving money, and reducing adverse health impacts.

Funding: We discussed several funding opportunities available that could support reduced idling activities, including:

- VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Community Climate Change Grants: Wayne Michaud said he will be submitting a proposal to work with commercial fleet operators.
- Tom Moye announced that ANR has agreed to fund \$15K to support a grant proposal submitted by American Lung Association and VT Clean Cities Coalition to support a pilot idling program in Rutland County focused on public outreach and education. The proposal includes identifying the reasons why people idle and then developing a campaign to address these reasons.
- EPA Healthy Communities: Rebecca Ryan and Karen Glitman said that they are looking at submitting a small grant under this competitive program to help support the Rutland County proposal (described above). The top amount for this grant is \$30K.

Strategies: We identified several strategies for furthering reduced idling in VT: legislation, education/outreach, and data collection.

Legislation: H.97 – bill before the VT House focused on large diesel vehicles.

- VT is the last state in Northeast to pass legislation dealing with large diesel trucks.
- Talked about meeting with supporters and potential opponents over the next six months to help secure passage in the next legislative session.
- Emphasis on cost savings
- Meet with VT Truck and Bus Association folks: *Don O. agreed to call to explore how to best establish a dialogue on the topic*; we are interested in meeting with them to hear their concerns and proposed appropriate provisions; potentially meeting with Ed Miller (lobbyist)
- Meet with other potential opponents: talk with Forest products, VT Grocer's, other associations with fleets of large diesel trucks
- Need to make modifications to current language in bill to increase emphasis on education; make sure appropriate concerns are addressed
- Talked about consideration of broader bill that looks at all vehicles, such as HI and MA have passed; decided that it would be better to focus on large diesel

Public education: We discussed three broad groups: fleet managers, general public, and schools.

- Fleet operators: Idle Free VT's proposal to ANR provides us with a start in this direction.

- General public: VT Clean Cities Coalition and VT Lung Association proposal to ANR is designed to address public education on a pilot level.
- Schools: While current law prohibits buses from idling on school property, it does not address other vehicles. The VT Department of Education has developed a model policy to assist school boards wishing to reduce the idling of motor vehicles other than school buses while on school grounds. There is an opportunity to work with School Boards and with student environmental groups to encourage the adoption of this policy in school districts throughout the state. Wayne was invited by the VT School Board Association to submit a letter for their newsletter in support of adopting a no idling policy; he will work with Paul on this. **Paul agreed to work on getting schools to adopt no idling policies on school grounds.**

Data collection: Various types of data are needed to support reduced idling, including: social/behavioral, health, environmental, and economic. The social/behavioral data is a focus of the VCCC/ALA proposal.

Other Partners: Paul and Rebecca had previously identified a number of potential supporters that would be good to get involved in reduced idling efforts (see below). We identified several groups that it would be good to have as core members of this effort, including:

- Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, Andrea Cohen – Rebecca will contact
- Community Climate Action, Deb Sachs – Rebecca will contact
- Vermont Public Interest Research Group, James Moore – Paul will contact
- Vermont Natural Resources Council, Johanna Miller – Paul will contact
- VT Chamber of Commerce, Chris Carrigan -- Paul will contact

Next Meeting:

June 18, 3:00-4:30 pm; Waterbury – room to be announced

Minutes taken by Paul Markowitz

Potential Supporters for Reduced Idling in Vermont

Core Members	First Meeting?
Sierra Club (Paul Markowitz)	Yes
UVM Transportation Research Ctr (Karen Glitman)	Yes
Idle Free VT (Wayne Michaud)	Yes
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters (Don Ostler)	Yes
American Lung Association (Rebecca Ryan)	Yes
Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (Andrea Cohen)	Unable
Alliance for Climate Action (Deb Sachs)	No
Vermont Public Interest Research Group	No
Vermont Natural Resources Defense Council	No

Potential partners/collaborators:

Conservation Law Foundation
 NESCAUM
 Hannaford
 Central Vermont Public Service
 Burlington Electric Company
 Green Mountain Electric
 Energy Committee Representatives
 Chairs of Natural Resources: G. Lyons, T. Klein
 Chairs of Transportation: D. Mazza, R. Westman
 Burlington City Council Rep (Joan Shannon)
 People for Less Pollution
 Jamie Able, Able Advertising
 Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce
 Vermont Chamber of Commerce
 Burton Snowboards
 Way to Go, Vermont registrants
 American Cancer Society
 American Heart Association
 American Public Health Association (Vermont)
 Vermonters for a Clean Environment
 VECAN
 Clean Cities Coalition members
 Merchant's Bank
 Vermont State Employee Credit Union

Technical Advisors (?):

- Department of Environmental Conservation – Mobile Sources (Tom Moye, David Love)
- Department of Health Asthma Advisory Council or Envision Coordinator (Amanda LaScala)
- Department of Education (Cathy Hilgendorf)