



SPARE THE AIR NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2007

Background

The Spare the Air program was initiated in 2001 by the Niagara Parks Commission. The aim of the program is to reduce unnecessary motor coach and transport truck idling in the Niagara River Corridor through educational measures and voluntary compliance. The program has evolved over the years with the addition of new program partners and implementation sites, as well as the appointment of a 'Spare the Air Ambassador'. The program uses a three-phased monitoring approach, beginning with benchmark monitoring of idling times, followed by interventions, mid-program monitoring, a subsequent interventions phase and final monitoring. All data collected during the program is compiled and analyzed and a final Annual Report is prepared detailing the findings. This newsletter is released monthly by Urban & Environmental Management Inc. (UEM) to provide progress updates on the program. The 2007 newsletters will be distributed more widely than in previous years to include people working at program implementation sites and the general public, as well as program partners.

2006 Program Recap

The 2006 Spare the Air Program was a tremendous success. There were significant reductions in average idling times from program start to finish for both motor coaches and transport trucks. This equated to the reduction of approximately 370 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in the Niagara River Corridor. Additionally, interventions with motor coach and transport truck drivers provided considerable insight into the barriers for reducing idling and motivations for complying with the program.

How Compliance is Measured

LARGE MOTOR COACHES

MAX 3 minutes 30 seconds to UNLOAD

MAX 4 minutes to LOAD



SMALL MOTOR COACHES

MAX 1 minute 30 seconds to UNLOAD

MAX 2 minutes to LOAD



TRANSPORT TRUCKS

MAX 30 seconds upon ARRIVAL

MAX 1 minute prior to DEPARTURE



Note: Max idling times include an additional 3 minutes of idling time for a large motor coach to load/unload the coach and an additional 1 minute of idling time for a small motor coach to load/unload the coach.

New for 2007

- Program Flyers/Brochures have been updated with a new format and the addition of compliance measures. The new flyer applies to both motor coaches and transport trucks, eliminating the need for two separate flyers. Flyers will be distributed by the Spare the Air Ambassador during interventions, and will also be available at driver's lounges and other implementation sites.
- Spare the Air signs, brochures and other information now incorporates the National Idle Free Destination Logo. The Spare the Air Ambassador will be meeting with program partners during the first phase of interventions to obtain input on the number of signs needed.
- Justin Wallbott, BES, of Urban & Environmental Management Inc., once again has assumed the role of Spare the Air Ambassador for the 2007 program. He will be conducting program monitoring and interventions at all program implementation sites throughout the summer. If you need to contact Justin with questions or comments about the program, please call 905-371-9764, ext. 245, or e-mail him at jwallbott@uemconsulting.com.

Benchmark Monitoring 2007 - Findings

Benchmark monitoring was conducted during the month of June at all program implementation sites, including priority locations such as Rapidsview Motor Coach parking, Queenston/Lewiston Bridge, Butterfly Conservatory, Floral Clock, Whirlpool Aerocar, Niagara-On-The-Lake Motor Coach parking and the Peace Bridge.

126 motor coaches and 112 transport trucks were monitored during this time period. The average rate of compliance for motor coaches and transport trucks was 67% and 57% respectively. The compliance rate for transport trucks at benchmark monitoring was 17% higher than the 2006 benchmark rate of 40%, while the rate for motor coaches remained relatively the same. Total idling times for motor coaches ranged from 5 seconds to just over 3 hours, with an average idling time of 5 minutes and 18 seconds. For transport trucks, idling times ranged from 4 seconds to approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, with an average idling time of 7 minutes and 7 seconds.

Further details of the benchmark results as well as research methods will be provided in the 2007 Annual Report that will be completed following the end of the program in mid-October.

About the National Idle Free Destination Program

The tremendous success of the Niagara River Corridor Spare the Air Program has led to the development of Motor Coach Canada's 'Idle Free Destination Program' Idling Reduction Toolkit. The Toolkit was modeled on the approach of the Spare the Air program and was finalized in March 2007. It has been distributed to over 60 stakeholders across Canada including environmental coordinators at border crossings, municipal representatives, destination operators and non-profit and charity organizations. Natural Resources Canada, who funded the Toolkit, has also received requests from various municipalities and destination operators in the United States, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Toolkit was developed in consultation with over 400 stakeholders across Canada, including municipalities, environmental organizations, health organizations, destination operators and motor coach operators. The Toolkit was designed to provide the necessary tools that can be used by various stakeholders at motor coach and transport truck locations across the country to implement local programs similar to the 'Spare the Air' program to reduce unnecessary idling.

The Toolkit includes a Step-by-Step Guide for program implementation, information on program scheduling and budgeting, idling impacts, as well as communication tools and sample signage, brochures and posters.

The logo pictured at the right of this page was developed for the National Idle Free Destination Program. This logo will be used on signage and other educational materials across Canada at Idle Free Destination Sites and has been adopted for the Spare the Air Program.

Idle-Free Destination



National Idle-Free Destination Program Logo

Next Steps

- The first phase of driver interventions is underway and will continue for several weeks in July.
- The Spare the Air Ambassador will be visiting program partners during the interventions phase to determine the number of new program signs required.

For More Information About the 'Spare the Air' Program, or if you Wish to Add Material to Future Newsletter Releases, Please Contact:

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