

SCHOOL WIDE ACTIVITIES

Anti-Idling Campaign

Idling is an issue at schools as buses and cars run as they wait to drop-off and pick-up students. As a result, children end up breathing in the unnecessary exhaust. Stopping the practice of idling is one way to improve air quality and respiratory health in your community.



To develop your own anti-idling campaign check out some of the resources through the links below for program ideas:

Idle Free BC

<http://www.idlefreebc.ca>

HASTE: Hub for Active School Transportation: Anti-Idling Cookbook

<http://www.hastebc.org/tools/anti-idling-cookbook>

Find Idle Free Resources, Pledge Forms, Posters, Lesson plans and more. Links to French language resources are also located on the website.

BC Air Quality: Provincial Idle Reduction Initiative

<http://www.bcairquality.ca/topics/idling/index.html>

Pacific Resource Conservation Society

"Idle Off" is an activity that can be used in the classroom to help students understand the environmental impact of leaving an engine idling.

http://www.hastebc.org/files/idle_off-2_0.pdf

AirwatchNW: A Collaborative Work of the Northwest Air Quality Agencies

AirwatchNW provides information on how to begin a program including an Action Timeline. Templates of letters for parents and principals can be found on the web page. Check out the link below:

<http://www.airwatchnw.org/anti-idling-programs/>

Natural Resource Canada at their website:

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/idling/idling.cfm>

Contact the **Fraser Basin Council** at (250) 612-0252 to acquire "BC is Idle Free – Turn Engine Off" signs for your school.

Air Quality Public Awareness Campaign

The following steps are found in the Clean Air Champions School Wide Activities Section in their Air Aware Program. Clean Air Champions has given permission to copyright permission for this resource.

1. There are many ways to make people more aware of topics such as asthma, allergies, air quality and active living. To develop an effective public awareness campaign, you need to answer a number of questions:
 - *Who is the target audience (who do you want to impact)?*
 - *What do you know about your audience?*
 - *What is the key message you want your audience to know or the key action you want them to take?*
 - *What are the barriers or other challenges in communicating your message to your audience or changing their behavior?*

You can find answers to these questions by developing and implementing surveys of your target audience. Look for online survey tools such as SurveyMonkey to help you. Ask questions to find out how much your audience already knows about the topic, and find out what challenges and barriers you need to anticipate.

2. Research various public awareness campaigns to see what approach was taken and whether the campaigns had an impact. For example,
<http://www.mpaa.org/contentprotection/public-service-announcements>
<http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/seniors/publicawareness.html>
<http://www.everychild.ca>
3. Determine an approach for your school that will increase the awareness of students and the school community regarding active living, asthma, allergies, and air quality. Your approach can be as simple as making announcements in school bulletins or on public address systems, or creating brochures or bookmarks, or you can conduct a full-fledged public awareness campaign. You may want students to make use of their social media groups to share information or links (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube).
4. Students can conduct a survey of the target audience after the campaign to determine the effectiveness of their campaign.

Active Transportation Campaign

Encourage students and staff to choose modes of transportation that limit or eliminate the burning of fossil fuels. This could be done through an Active Transportation Campaign. There are lesson plans available that could help address sustainable transportation.

HASTE: HUB for Active School Travel

<http://www.hastebc.org>

Lesson plans and ideas can be found at:

<http://www.hastebc.org/tools/lesson-plans>

School Flag Program

Help students, parents, school staff and the community be aware of daily air quality conditions using brightly colored flags that correspond with the [Air Quality Health Index](#). These flags can be raised each day at the school to indicate the quality of air for that day. Blue would be indication of low health risk and ideal conditions for outdoor activities. Gray or green would indicate moderate risk and no need to modify activities unless experiencing symptoms or if the at risk population. Brown or orange would indicate high risk while everyone should consider reducing activities outdoors especially the at risk population. The red flag would indicate a very high health risk and everyone should reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors.

This program may be especially effective for schools with high incidence of asthma in the student body.

http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=school_flag_program.index

School Greening Projects

Ideas for school wide projects:

1. Installing solar panels
2. Constructing edible gardens
3. Installing rain barrels
4. Starting composting programs
5. Revitalizing school lunch programs
6. Swapping out inefficient lighting
7. Implementing recycling programs
8. Painting eco-themed murals
9. Building butterfly or rain gardens

Check out Windermere Secondary School's successful Garden Project:

<http://bctf.ca/publications/NewsmagArticle.aspx?id=21905>