



bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society

Chapter 10B: Transportation Emissions **New Chapter for 2009 Addendum**

When the Plan was written in 2004, it focussed on fine particulate pollution from smoke and road dust since these were deemed to have the largest impacts on local air quality. Since 2004, the AMS has expanded the scope of its work to include activities focussed on other pollutants which also impact human health. In particular, the AMS has capitalized on community interest and funding opportunities for projects relating to transportation emissions.

Transportation emissions (other than PM10 Road Dust - see Chapter 10) are not addressed in the current version of the Plan, and this addendum provides some background information about transportation emissions and their significance. It also highlights some goals, indicators and strategies that will be included in a new chapter in the next version of the Plan. Table 10.1 proposes goals and strategies, and includes descriptions of projects and accomplishments to date. Indicators are also proposed that could be used to evaluate the success of these strategies.

Background:

AMS participated in a province-wide Anti-Idling campaign in 2008 and sponsored a summer student Ambassador under a provincial grant. This led to a partnership with Smithers Senior Secondary School to sponsor a work study student during that same summer. Further partnership building success followed with the School District and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the delivery of education and policy initiatives. A final partnership was also struck with One Sky, a non-profit out of Smithers, to follow up on work started with local governments and businesses with respect to adopting policies and educating staff and customers. One Sky received an Eco-Action grant to carry out this work while at the same time, AMS funding to continue this work was depleted.

Links to larger economic development and community planning issues surfaced very clearly during Community Open Houses and AMS Board meetings and the AGM in 2008. For example, emissions from increased CN Rail traffic related to the Prince Rupert container port and from trucking operations related to a proposed molybdenum mine on Hudson Bay mountain were identified as key concerns. AMS submitted detailed comments for the Davidson Mine project and the Town of Smithers OCP regarding transportation emissions and distributed copies of these documents to other airshed planning groups in BC who requested templates for responding to official calls for comments of this variety.

The strategies proposed for the future here are based on the ability of partners to continue initiatives started in 2008 and the feasibility of receiving new funding for AMS to contract out and / or sponsor further research and education programs.

Significance of Source:

An operating vehicle emits a range of gases from its tailpipe into the atmosphere. Some emissions, principally carbon dioxide (CO₂), are classified as greenhouse gases (GHGs) because they increase the earth's natural "greenhouse effect" and in doing so, are contributing to the changing of the world's climate. Other emissions, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO) and oxides of nitrogen (NOX), are criteria air contaminants (CACs) and these emissions are known to contribute towards air pollution and smog.

While smog is a pollution problem more commonly associated with large urban centres, smaller centres with sensitive airsheds are also impacted on a neighbourhood level by any addition of emissions to the atmosphere and growing awareness of health issues have also contributed to a growing public intolerance of behaviours that do not consider these impacts. The links to climate change combined with rising fuel costs and a slowing economy have also raised awareness of the negative impacts of unnecessary idling and vehicle operations in general.

While a quantitative analysis of the significance of transportation emissions for the BVLD airshed is not available, it is presumed that this source follows a seasonal pattern related to the interaction of climate, topography, and the characteristics of the emission source (i.e. health impacts and volume). Certainly the health impacts of the specific gases from tailpipes are well-known and AMS in general supports the precautionary principle when it comes to protecting public health while also advocating for a sensible balance between environmental protection and a health economy.

Table 10B.1: Proposed Strategies and Actions Implemented To Date

Goals	Strategies	Indicators
<p>1. Raise awareness of idling impacts on local air quality and vehicle operating budgets.</p>	<p>Install anti-idling signs at community hotspots (all municipal buildings and facilities, schools, hospitals etc.)</p> <p>Telkwa elementary school, BV Christian School have installed. All other schools have been given information on how to get free signs.</p> <p>All provincial and municipal government offices have been approached. Nora Building in Smithers will post 4 signs and vehicles have anti-idling decals. Posters are also going up inside offices (this is from Climate Change Secretariat and is being pushed by the local Green Team). Town of Smithers has been approached but have not some on board.</p> <p>Provincial installation of signs by Highways Department has added much momentum to the local campaign.</p> <p>Public education via local government newsletters and websites.</p> <p>Telkwa September newsletter had a front page story.</p>	<p>Number of signs in a community and number of partners that are hosting signs.</p> <p>Number of decals distributed and observed around the community.</p> <p>Number of articles that appear in print media and websites and number of partners hosting this</p>

	<p>Public education through displays and event greening AMS sponsored several staffed displays in 2008 including Terrace RiverBoat Days and the Bulkley Valley Fall Fair. In 2009, AMS in partnership with RDKS also introduced anti-idling as a policy for the Terrace Trade Show. All vendors were given a "green checklist" to follow which included reduced vehicle trips and reduced idling, and three signs were placed at the Civic Centre parking lot.</p> <p>Public Education in the schools Dept of Fisheries and Oceans is doing direct education at the elementary level and maybe some high school. Brenda Donas is the facilitator. Meg Hobson is putting together a resource kit for the schools which will be available later 2009. This will be posted on websites.</p> <p>Public Education for Businesses. Every vehicle repair shop and car dealership, and downtown merchant in Smithers received an information package in 2009. In 2008, similar packages were also distributed in Houston.</p>	<p>information.</p> <p>Number of schools that have hosted a presentation or activity.</p> <p>Number of workshops offered and number of participants. Number of fleet management programs that address fuel economy and anti-idling specifically.</p> <p>Number of policies and bylaws adopted. Effectiveness and enforcement of policies and bylaws.</p>
<p>2. Provide fleet management training and tools.</p>	<p>One Sky is bringing two workshops in November in partnership Natural Resources Canada. 1. Fuel Management 101 by - November 26 in Smithers at the Town Hall. About 30 invites have been sent out to well know fleet owners i.e. CN, RCMP, school district, local government. 2. Smart Driver Program for school bus drivers is November 27 at the Toyota boardroom in Smithers.</p>	<p>Attendance at workshops, normalized to reflect level of interest and availability, as well as promotion efforts.</p> <p>New commitments and behaviours following workshops.</p>
<p>3. Local government to adopt anti-idling policy and eventually bylaw.</p>	<p>Smithers had an in-house policy. Telkwa is looking at a policy. No bylaw discussions at this time. Provide each target audience with a list of who has adopted bylaws and policies. Further work is happening with the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and the City of Terrace through the Zero Waste Planner and Sustainability Coordinator respectively. Idle-free zone signs have been ordered by both agencies and will be placed at their administration offices and selected facilities.</p>	<p>Requests for additional workshops.</p>
<p>4. Secure funding to support continued programming.</p>	<p>One Sky's funding from Eco-Action ends November 30, 2009. A funding application has been submitted to TD Friends of the Environment to produce a comic/activity book on the theme of anti-idling. DFO program is independent of One Sky and AMS.</p>	<p>Number of funding applications submitted. Total value of funding received. Completion of proposed activities.</p>
<p>5. Idling behaviour research and baseline data collection</p>	<p>In the summer of 2008, AMS led a baseline data collection project at local hotspots as part of a Work Study program with Smithers Senior Secondary School and the Anti-Idling Ambassador program. A methodology, research training and toolkit, and data analysis system were developed and fine-tuned by the AMS Anti-Idling Committee and the two</p>	<p>Reduced number of total idling minutes observed at baseline data hotspots.</p>

<p>6. Establish of Anti-Idling Committee</p>	<p>students. Ideally, the baseline data would be used to compare future values to see if a decline in total idling minutes can be observed. Idling behaviour related to driver demographics, location, vehicle make, and fuel system would be ideal variables for comparison so that strategies can be fine-tuned to specific target audiences.</p> <p>In 2008 AMS formed a committee to oversee this specific emission source. Terms of Reference are included here. Membership is restricted to Board members (Laurie Gallant, Jeff Anderson, and Dave Stevens) and ad hoc members as needed related to partnerships.</p>	
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Resources:

Excellent information is available at the following websites:

Natural Resource Canada's (NRCan) Idle-free zone <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/communities-government/idling.cfm>

The Fraser Basin Council's Idle Free BC website: <http://www.idlefreebc.ca/>

HASTE Hub for Action on School Transportation Emissions: <http://www.hastebc.org>