

## Minutes

Thursday, September 1, 2005

### *S.A. 05-07 Clean Diesel Planning Effort School Bus Subcommittee Meeting*

1. **Attendance**  
Bill Moore – COSTA  
Ariel Garcia, Susan Amarello – CTDEP  
David Gillen – HO PENN  
Mark Mitchell, Kathleen Henry, Stephen Hollyes, Gladys Ellis – CCEJ  
Anthony Rish – Gateway Community College  
Cyril Alapatt – Clean Water Action  
Madeleine Weil, Danae Dwyer – Environment Northeast
2. **Target: Action Items**  
-Confirming inventory, evaluate retrofit – crankcase, retrofit/retirement, clean fuel, anti-idling, model contract language, review case studies, pilot projects.
3. **Inventory estimated as 6,500 buses**  
-All school buses have to be registered and inspected by August 31 each year.  
-Typical fleet turn-over every 5 years, some range up to 12 years (Hartford).  
-14 municipally owned fleets, about 125 districts contract  
-COSTA members = 92 bus companies in state (including all but 1 large contractor). Laidlaw, Dattco, First Student, New Britain Transit, Allstar, M & J are largest companies.  
-Small buses: Anything smaller than F250 chassis use gasoline.
4. **Fleet retrofit options**  
-Diesel Forum of 8/17 Presentations, <http://www.dep.state.ct.us/air2/diesel>
5. **Clean Fuel Options**  
-Biodiesel: Benefits to biodiesel compared to 500 ppm, but probably equal to 15 ppm for PM. Other issues, mercury vapor, NOx, SOx in standard diesel fuel are reduced with biodiesel. For cabin air quality, biodiesel should be considered. Easy enough to get a biodiesel blend delivered.
6. **Anti-idling efforts**  
-Anecdotal evidence that CT school buses idle for start-up, definitely in winter. Almost all diesels have block heaters – 90%. Block heater is just so engine will start, doesn't heat the cabin temperature. Takes a long time to heat up the cabin – one hour or more. School buses not well insulated. Also, have to keep drivers warm – low retention rate as it is.

## Approved as amended, 9-08-05

- Drivers still idling unnecessarily, when temperature isn't a problem. Some don't know the law; some believe it's better for the engine to idle.
- Fuel costs should reduce the problem
- Recommendations: possible stickers inside or on school buses – necessary to get rule changed with DMV. Incorporate the sticker distribution process into registration renewal. (MRW note: some cities have asked drivers to take an anti-idling pledge)

### 7. **CATF in-cabin school bus “self-pollution” study**

- Ultra-fine particles come from tailpipe, enter cabin through front door.
- PM2.5 particles come from crank-case.
- DPF eliminates ultrafines, Spiracle crank-case filter eliminates PM2.5

### 8. **CT Clean School Bus Policy**

- Continue investigation of availability of 2007 compliant school buses
- 2007 compliant buses come with DPFs and closed crank-case filters
- Could offset cost of buying 2007 compliant engine with a tax credit
- Community education – communities are willing to pay for children's health
- Post 2007 OBT technology – self diagnostics will tell buses that emission control is not working
- Because there is fuel efficiency penalty with 2007 models, operators will try to disable emissions control (not replace filter, etc.)
- Recommendation for DMV to add emissions inspection to mandatory annual safety inspection. Alternatively, add school buses to mandatory emission inspection program
- Penalty threat would have to accompany inspection regime
- Other states (i.e. New Jersey) implement post-retrofit testing

### 9. **Contract Issues**

- Contracts typically roll over after 3 to 5 years, exceptions upon problems
- Not a lot of direct competition yet, but that's increasing now with increased labor costs, municipalities are all reviewing budgets
- Anything can be written into a contract spec, all a matter of cost.
- COSTA can help educate all companies about what is BACT, how can they keep fuel costs down.

### 10. **Next steps/subcommittee assignments**

- Ariel gets inventory data, as detailed as possible
- Madeleine will develop model policy for discussion at next meeting
- Tony will put together memo about supply and distribution of biofuel, and availability of other alt-fuels
- Bill will research enforcement of anti-idling