

IDLE-FREE CLEAN AIR ZONES

- WHEREAS, Petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel are nonrenewable fuels and should be used wisely and not wasted¹; and
- WHEREAS, Emissions from gasoline and diesel powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, and fine particulates²; and
- WHEREAS, Emissions from gasoline and diesel powered vehicles contribute a multitude of potentially harmful pollutants that can trigger asthma attacks and other ailments³; and
- WHEREAS, Diesel vehicles emit numerous carcinogenic chemicals, including benzene and formaldehyde; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that all vehicle emissions account for as many as half of all cancers attributed to outdoor air pollution⁴; and
- WHEREAS, Unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions and exposure to air toxins can be avoided by reducing or eliminating wasteful vehicle idling⁵; and
- WHEREAS, A car idling for 10 minutes uses as much fuel as it takes to travel 5 miles; and a car idling 10 minutes each day uses more than 27 gallons of fuel a year⁶; and
- WHEREAS, For every gallon of gasoline used, the average car produces about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the largest contributor to greenhouse climate change, with one-third of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the transportation sector⁷; and
- WHEREAS, Idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and emits more pollutants than turning a warm engine off and on again; and idling is not generally beneficial to a vehicle's engine because it wears engine parts⁸; and
- WHEREAS, Vehicle idling occurs on school drop-off and pick-up locations and parking lots where children are more highly exposed to air pollutant emissions⁹; and
- WHEREAS, Asthma is a significant public health concern, especially among Utah's school age children where up to 8.3% of males and 9.8% of females have asthma¹⁰; and
- WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children's exposure to diesel exhaust particles should be decreased, and that idling of diesel vehicles in places where children live and congregate should be minimized to protect their health¹¹; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies support the adoption of "Idle-Free Zones" on school grounds; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies work with local schools and school districts to install "Idle-Free Zone" signs at school drop-off and pick-up locations; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage local school districts to turn off school bus engines while they are waiting to load and unload students on school property and to maintain buses properly to eliminate any visible exhaust; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage parents to turn off their vehicles when they are parked and waiting to drop off and pick up children on school grounds; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies conduct and/or support broad education of school employees, parents, students, and the public about the health, environmental, and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA submit this resolution to National PTA for its consideration.

Documentation:

¹Nonrenewable energy sources come out of the ground as liquids, gases, and solids and include coal, natural gas, crude oil (petroleum), propane, etc. Available at <http://www.scienceonline.co.uk/energy/nonrenewable.html>

² National Safety Council. Retrieved February 8, 2008 from <http://www.nsc.org/ehc/mobile/airpollu.htm>

³ Clean Air Task-Force. Retrieved February 8, 2008 from <http://www.catf.us/publications/view/84>

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Six Common Air Pollutants. In *Air & Radiation Basic Information*. Retrieved February 8, 2008 from <http://www.epa.gov/oar/urbanair/6poll.html>

⁵ Environmental Protection Agency. Retrieved February 8, 2008 from <http://www.epa.gov/SmartwayLogistics/idle-questions.htm>

⁶ USEPA Fuel Calculator. (2008). Available at http://www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/idle_fuel_calc.htm
Consumer Energy Center Myths. Retrieved February 8, 2008 from <http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/myths/idling.html>

⁷ Department of Energy Alternative Fuels Data Center. Retrieved February 8, 2008 from <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/co2.shtml>

⁸ Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Office of Air Quality. Idling. Retrieved February 8, 2008 from <http://www.in.gov/idem/programs/air/dieselwise/idling.html>

⁹ William Penn Elementary School PTA. Salt Lake City, Utah. Observation conducted in 2007.

¹⁰ Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Health Promotion. (2007). Utah Asthma Program Burden Report.

¹¹ American Association of Pediatrics. Retrieved February 8, 2008 from <http://www.aap.org/>
Quality of Air Index. Available at <http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=static.aqi>