



Idaho Communities Environmental News

A Publication of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Volume 1 Issue 1

Communities Help Protect Air Quality

Communities throughout Idaho have partnered with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to help protect air quality by joining the *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program. The program is aimed at reducing exposure to exhaust from idling vehicles. Vehicle exhaust contains many air pollutants and leads to the formation of other pollutants, such as ozone, which are harmful to human health, especially to children, the elderly, and people with respiratory problems.

The *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program began in 2004 with an initiative to discourage idling of school buses and vehicles on school grounds, thereby reducing children’s exposure to vehicle exhaust.* In 2006, the program expanded into Idaho communities with an initiative to reduce emissions from idling vehicles at a wide range of public facilities such as airports, libraries, parks, and sports areas. To date, more than 30 Idaho communities have joined the program. Universities and businesses with delivery areas, drop-off zones, and drive-up windows are encouraged to participate, too.

If your community is already a participant, thanks for helping keep Idaho’s air clean! If not, you can still join, and it’s free! Contact Loni Hanka, DEQ’s Community Outreach Pollution Prevention Specialist, at (208) 373-0124 or loni.hanka@deq.idaho.gov. Participants receive signs, posters, brochures, and window decals to remind citizens to turn off their engines. Feel free to encourage businesses, schools, child care centers, and other facilities in your area to join as well.



Participating Clean Air Zone Idaho Communities, Businesses, and Other Facilities

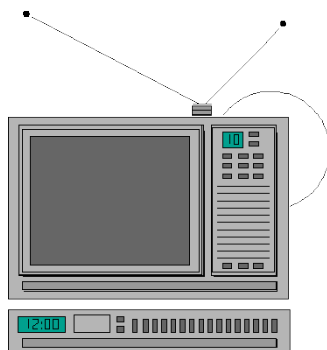
Communities	Grand View	Moscow	Rexburg	Businesses and Other Facilities	Exxon/Chesterfield, Preston	Maag Prescription and Medical Supply, Pocatello
American Falls	Hagerman	Mountain Home	Soda Springs	Bogus Basin Ski Resort, Boise	Gold Fork Hot Springs, McCall	Zions Bank, Pocatello
Boise	Hailey	Nampa	Spirit Lake	Boise Co-Op, Boise	Hidden Springs Housing Development, Garden City	Universities
Cascade	Hansen	Parma	Sun Valley	Boise Foothills Learning Center, Boise	JR Simplot Co., Pocatello	Boise State University
Driggs	Horseshoe Bend	Paul	Tensed	Citizens Bank, Pocatello	Larry’s Pharmacy, Preston	Idaho State University
Emmett	Iona	Pinehurst	Weiser	Conoco/Subway, Preston	La Tienda, Franklin	
Franklin	Island Park	Plummer	Wendell			
Garden City	Kendrick	Pocatello				
Grace	Kuna	Post Falls				

* For a list of participating schools, visit DEQ’s Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/air/assist_citizen_comm/clean_air_zone_idaho/caz_members.cfm.

Encourage Citizens to Avoid Tossing Analog TVs

In only a few months, citizens in Idaho and around the nation will be faced with a big decision – what to do with their analog televisions. The U.S. Congress has mandated that all television broadcasting be converted from the current analog signal to a digital signal by February 17, 2009.

After that date, all television broadcasting will be in digital format only, and people who receive their television broadcasting through an antenna (either rabbit ears or an antenna mounted on their homes) will be unable to receive a signal without a digital signal converter. (Those with cable or satellite should not be affected.)



Citizens do not have to throw out their analog TVs!

Encourage citizens in your community to consider these alternatives:

- Buy an analog to digital converter. Costs for these converters range from \$50 - \$70. Government-issued vouchers for \$40 are available to help offset the cost. Currently, vouchers are limited to two per household. Information on the vouchers is available at <https://www.dtv2009.gov/AboutProgram.aspx>.
- Use old TVs for video games and/or DVD/VCR viewing.
- Give/sell non-digital TVs at reduced cost to family/friends that have cable/satellite.
- If purchasing a new digital TV, ask the salesperson if the store will recycle the old TV, or contact the analog TV manufacturer to see if it offers a take-back program.
- Contact local charities to see if they accept TVs. Many local charities may become inundated with TVs and may not accept additional units. Call the charity before dropping off a TV.

Communities Help Protect Water Quality

Communities are key players in Idaho's efforts to protect water quality. *Storm Drain Marking* is a relatively simple and fun way that your community can help prevent pollution of our rivers, lakes, streams, and ground water.

In Idaho, stormwater is channeled to rivers, streams, or lakes, or underground to ground water. It is not cleaned at a wastewater treatment plant. This means all of the pollutants carried by stormwater are also channeled to these water bodies. Pouring something down a storm drain or in a gutter is the same as pouring it directly into a favorite swimming hole or fishing spot, or even into the source of our drinking water. It's important to discourage people from dumping waste such as motor oil, antifreeze, and fertilizer down storm drains.

The Idaho Departments of Environmental Quality and Fish and Game, with assistance from the city of Boise, have developed a storm drain marking toolkit, a set of materials that can help in planning and implementing a community event to mark storm drains. Storm drain markers are a visible way to remind citizens not to dump waste down storm drains. The toolkit consists of informational materials such as instructions on how to plan and implement a storm drain marking program, items to publicize a marking event, and safety tips. The materials can be used separately or together, and can be personalized to your community.



For information on how to plan a storm drain marking event in your community, visit DEQ's Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues/storm_water/storm_drain_marking.cfm.

A marked storm drain.



A Boy Scout Troop marking drains in Payette in November 2007. Mayor Doug Henderson (right) came to show his support for their efforts.



Printed on recycled paper. June 2008. Costs associated with this publication are available from the Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code.

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Boise, ID

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