WSU Clean Air Initiative: WSU Idle-Free Campus Proposal

Environmental Issues Committee

January 2013

Proposal for Faculty Senate: *The Environmental Issues Committee recommends to the WSU Faculty Senate and to the WSU administration that the university adopt a policy that prohibits motor vehicle idling on the Weber State campuses.*

**Background:**

In 2010, with support from the Office of Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Parking Services and Facilities management, WSU purchased and installed 80 “Turn Your Key WSU is Idle Free” signs around campus. We also purchased 2000 “Turn Your Key WSU is Idle Free” stickers which have been distributed by Parking Services, Facilities Management, the Environmental Issues Committee, the Student Environmental Club, and the Environmental Ambassadors Program. Facilities Management also adopted a no-idle policy for all of its vehicle fleet.

In 2011 the EIC began to consider ways to implement a Clean Air Initiative that would encompass the issue of smoking on campus and idling of vehicles on campus. The latter is also tied to the need to reduce WSU’s Scope 3 emissions. These are emissions much less under the direct control of the university (due to individual behavior and outside infrastructure like public transit systems), particularly student, faculty and staff commuting/travel, and make up about 40% of current overall emissions. WSU has a made a commitment/goal as part of the Climate Action Plan to become carbon neutral by 2050. We feel that addressing idling on campus has several benefits.

**Benefits:**

1. It helps improve campus air quality and reduces the Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions that we need to tackle as part of the WSU Climate Action Plan;
2. Helps increase awareness about air pollution problems along the Wasatch Front (frequently the worst in the nation), with the hope that members of the campus community will eliminate idling at home, while running errands, and especially when waiting to pick children up from school;
3. Help get students out of their cars and into the student center or academic buildings, where they can better be part of the campus community, instead of sitting alone in an idling vehicle in a parking lot.

**Existing Models:**

--Utah State University signed a campus-wide idle free policy in April 2012. <http://tooele.fox13now.com/news/environment/73028-idle-free-policy-now-place-usu-campuses>

-- Ogden City Announced its First Annual "Idle-Free Week": The Ogden City Council and Mayor Caldwell have proclaimed January 14-21, 2013 as "Idle-Free Week" in Ogden City.

--On September 11th, Governor Herbert declared September “Idle-Free Month” in Utah.

--Salt Lake City has an idle free ordinance. <http://www.slcgov.com/idlefree/ordinance>

--Park City has an idle-free ordinance. <http://www.parkcity.org/index.aspx?page=622>

**Enforcement:**

Similar to USU’s policy, this policy will be implemented and enforced as an educational initiative, using specially trained volunteers from the Office of Sustainability’s Environmental Ambassadors Program. The WSU Chief of Police, Dane LeBlanc, has indicated a willingness to enforce as needed the policy proposed here.