



**Greater Boston Breathes Better
Working Group Meeting
June 5, 2008, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Suffolk University, Boston**

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

Patrick Field from the **Consensus Building Institute (CBI)** welcomed participants to the Greater Boston Breathes Better (GB3) working group meeting and thanked Suffolk University for hosting the meeting. Participants then introduced themselves. (*Appendix A: List of Attendees*)

Suffolk Anti-Idling Project

Erica Mattison from **Suffolk University** gave a short overview of Suffolk's recent sustainability efforts. She noted that Suffolk was awarded a 2008 City of Boston Green Business Award for its sustainability efforts including resource conservation, waste management, and promotion of alternative transportation. She also highlighted two student team projects that addressed the issue of idling in and around Suffolk's campus. One team addressed engine idling by reaching out to drivers education programs and local businesses to educate and raise awareness about the impacts of vehicle idling. She reported that the group had difficulty reaching out to businesses and drivers education programs. The other team focused on raising awareness about urban bicycling and safety and produced a short video on the air quality benefits of bicycling.

Group Comments and Discussion:

- The group discussed the challenges of enforcing the state anti-idling policy.
- Andy Frongillo from Burke Energy offered Erica his driver's education contacts to pursue.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Municipal Efforts to Reduce Diesel Emissions

Christine Kirby from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) presented on the Commonwealth's recent work with and opportunities for municipalities around diesel emissions reduction. She noted that DEP already has a relationship with most of the Commonwealth's municipalities through DEP's recycling program infrastructure. She spoke about DEP's Diesel Programs, including the MA School Bus Retrofit Program that will formally launch in the July/August timeframe. The program is offering grant money to cover the cost of installing diesel oxidation catalysts and diesel particulate filters on school buses statewide. She requested

help with outreach to both privately and publically owned school bus fleets. For more information, contact massclean.diesel@state.ma.us or 617-292-5809.

Christine also noted that DEP anticipates receiving EPA funding through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Program (DERA), state grant program, for additional emissions reduction projects. MassDEP also anticipates having more grant funding available for municipal sustainability initiatives. She commented that DEP has an idling reduction toolkit available on its website: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/community/schbusir.htm>

Group Comments and Discussion:

- John Bolduc noted the challenge of getting privately owned fleets to take advantage of the program, when those fleets claim to replace vehicles every other year.

Northeast Diesel Collaborative Contract Spec

Debbi Edelstein from NESCAUM shared the Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC) model contract specification, which was recently completed. She commented that it offers best practices and suggests technologies that contractors might be required to adopt. She emphasized that the spec recommends that the cost burden of adopting retrofit technologies be assumed by the contracting entity, not the contractor. The spec is available at www.northeastdiesel.org, along with an online Diesel Emissions Reduction Toolkit which includes sample policy language and information on diesel emissions reduction best practices from across the country.

Group Comments and Discussion:

- John Bolduc noted that Cambridge has asked its DPW to incorporate bid specs but is not sure they are being implemented and enforced.
- Jesse Foote shared that Harvard has adopted similar construction bid specs into its construction projects so the cost of the retrofit is included in the cost of the contract.

Generators and Air Pollution

The group discussed the pollution impacts of generators, used for things like Head of the Charles or lunch trucks. It was noted that there are retrofits available for stationary generators and suggested that cities require retrofits as part of their permitting process. Ed Burke noted that all generators can use ULSD, instead of heating oil, for minimal cost difference (10-12 cents). Jesse Foote asked if heat and power co-generation efforts could lead to an increase in small generators, and it was suggested that DEP provide information on emissions and air quality associated with co-generation.

Summary of Activities and Plans for 2008-9

Ona Ferguson from the **Consensus Building Institute** commented that since 2004, GB3 has served as a hub of information and a network for connecting members from different organizations and sectors. **Kate Harvey** from the **Consensus Building Institute** offered an overview of GB3 efforts, which included working group meetings, educational forums and workshops (*see Appendix B for list of projects*). Ona noted that funding for GB3 from EPA and other sources is now running out and posed the questions: Is GB3 a valuable forum, and looking toward the future what would best help Working Group members?

Several group members commented on the value of the workshops and biannual GB3 meetings. Several private sector members commented that GB3 meetings give them an opportunity to understand what new regulations are and what potential clients might need from them. John Bolduc asked if GB3 could broaden its emphasis to include other issues, such as climate change, which he thought would give GB3 more access to funding. Halida Hatic noted that it is within the mission of GB3 to address other transportation related issues. Jake Glickel commented that he'd prefer to focus on pollution issues and suggested that GB3 take an environmental justice focus, for which the City of Boston has funding.

Ona Ferguson asked if it would be okay to reach out to private sector GB3 members to sponsor GB3 meetings. *The group agreed to reach out to private sponsors.*

Member Project Updates

Kate Harvey from the **Consensus Building Institute** shared that CBI worked closely with Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC) (Halida Hatic and Debbi Edelstein) to organize two information workshops on strategies for reducing diesel emissions at hospitals, schools, and universities. The workshops were held in spring 2008 in Providence, RI and Manchester, NH and hosted panelists who spoke about their experiences, technologies, and policies. About 30 people attended the Providence workshop and over 60 people attended in Manchester. Kate thanked GB3 members from Cummins, Dana Farber/Walsh Brothers, Sprague, and Harvard for presenting at the workshops. As a result of the workshops, the City of Manchester, NH will be pursuing efforts to retrofit all of its municipal vehicles.

Halida Hatic from **EPA** shared that DERA funding has now been appropriated by Congress and that each state will receive approximately \$200,000 to fund diesel emissions reduction initiatives. Additional funding will be available on a regional basis, through the NEDC in New England, and the deadline to apply for funding is June 12. Halida also shared that Lucy Edmondson has accepted a new position at DEP. The group acknowledged all of the work Lucy did for GB3 and wished her well in her new position.

Ed Burke from **Burke Oil** shared that Burke has eight new vehicles with Cummins emissions reduction technology. He added that Burke has a new biodiesel facility in Holyoke, MA and highlighted Taunton state hospitals success with bioheat. He noted that state agencies support bioheat in home heating oil.

Andy Frongillo from **Burke Oil** added that Burke has completed a solar project at its main office, which was funded through a state grant, and is engaged in net metering. When asked, he responded that Burke has not had complaints from NSTAR about the project.

Jake Glickel from the **City of Boston** noted they are working with the Police Commissioner to acquire some hybrid or fuel efficient vehicles for the department.

John Bolduc from **City of Cambridge** shared that Cambridge is following Boston's clean cabs program and is working with Whole Foods, which is funding \$30,000 to offset the incremental cost of new hybrid cabs. He added that the city is auctioning off two old municipal vehicles to offset the purchase of new hybrid vehicles (currently Cambridge has nine hybrids on the road). John noted

that the City has five school buses retrofit with DOCs, four with DPFs, which leaves four city buses to be retrofitted. He added that the City might need to verify that the privately owned school bus fleets are replaced every three years. Finally, he noted that the DPW fleet has been retrofitted.

Jesse Foote from **Harvard University** shared that implementation of Harvard's contract spec requirements is going fine. He added that David Harris recently installed a nitrogen filling station to inflate tires so that they leak more slowly. Harvard is also buying carbon offsets from Terrapass for gas vehicles that cannot run on biodiesel. Finally, he announced that David Harris recently received a national biodiesel award.

Evan Ypsilantis from **Rypos** shared that the firm is trying to get off-road and marine verification and is developing technology for auxiliary power and refrigerator engines. They are also working on a low-maintenance active DPF filter. He observed that the market is shifting responsibility for retrofits from dealers and contractors to manufacturers and that Rypos is working to actively develop new technologies to meet growing demand.

Katie Choe from **Massport** shared that she is new to Massport and is currently working on updating Massport's website with a CO2 footprint calculator and an inventory of offset web resources. Massport has also installed an off-grid, microwind turbines pilot at its office building and is working with a retrofit schedule for vehicles on the Tobin Bridge work.

Jeff Jacobs from **CAT** shared that CAT is applying for DERA funding for projects and is trying to drive awareness about advances in emissions technologies, policies, and options. He observed that awareness is a problem and that many people CAT interacts with don't know that the incremental costs of emissions reductions technologies are often very low. He added that commercial demand for emissions reduction technologies is increasing.

Brian Beaulieu from **Cummins Northeast** said Cummins is working with North Andover and Wakefield on retrofits, with MIT on DOCs for MIT shuttle buses, with Hollis on school bus fleets, and with the City of Manchester, NH, which is going to retrofit all its city vehicles.

Erica Mattison from **Suffolk University** shared that Suffolk is looking into microwind turbines, solar energy, and co-generation. She explained that Suffolk has very few vehicles, but is open to exploring options for flex fuel or retrofits. Suffolk has police on bicycles, and the university will look into construction specification language.

Debbi Edelstein from **NESCAUM** shared that in addition to recent work on the Diesel Workshops in RI and NH, she has been working with CAT on retrofitting construction vehicles. Additionally, she has been focusing on railways, with a focus on Providence and Worcester railways, which are applying for funding for APUs.

Catherine Maas from **Chelsea Collaborative** said the Chelsea DPW agreed to retrofit all of their vehicles and that the police department has agreed to make an effort to enforce state anti-idling laws. She also explained that Chelsea Collaborative is now working in a three-way partnership to target retrofits for trucks that operate in Chelsea but are not locally owned.

Appendix A – June 5, 2008 GB3 Meeting Attendees

Brian Beaulieu, Cummins Northeast
John Bolduc, City of Cambridge
Ed Burke, Burke Oil
Katie Choe, Massport
Debbie Edelstein, NESCAUM
Ona Ferguson, Consensus Building Institute
Patrick Field, Consensus Building Institute
Jesse Foote, Harvard University
Eric Francis, Suffolk University
Andy Frongillo, Burke Oil
Ariel Garcia, EPA
Jake Glickel, City of Boston
Kate Harvey, Consensus Building Institute
Halida Hatic, EPA
Jeff Jacobs, CAT
Christine Kirby, MA Department of Environmental Protection
Katherine Kirklin, Suffolk University
Catherine Maas, Chelsea Collaborative
Erica Mattison, Suffolk University
Gary Rennie, MA Department of Environmental Protection
Carl Spector, City of Boston
Matt Whitehead, EPA intern
Evan Ypsilantis, Rypos Inc

Appendix B



GREATER BOSTON BREATHES BETTER (GB3) 2004-2008 PROJECTS OVERVIEW (DRAFT)

2004-2008 Support for GB3 Partners

GB3 has provided ongoing support to GB3 partners with their voluntary efforts to reduce the health risks and environmental concerns associated with local air pollution, including: sharing information about available funds to launch innovative projects and opportunities to participate in local, state, and federal voluntary transportation programs; convening events to share information and inspire additional action; offering process guidance and technical information on retrofits, alternative fuels, anti-idling procedures and laws; facilitating connections between people, agencies, organizations, and local expertise; and providing recognition for partners implementing effective air pollution reduction programs.

2004 Shuttle Bus Workshop

GB3 convened a workshop to share information about retrofits, cleaner diesel, and alternative fuels for drivers of shuttle buses and fleet vehicles in the Boston area. Presentations were given by Boston area transportation services, air quality organizations, and universities and focused on strategies and local efforts for reducing diesel emissions by shuttle buses.

2004 School Bus Retrofit Workshop

GB3 convened a workshop on strategies for reducing the diesel emissions by school buses. Presenters discussed the health impacts of diesel exhaust, training programs for bus drivers, examples of school districts that have implemented diesel retrofits, and EPA funding available to help schools implement new programs to reduce air pollution.

2004 Colleges and Universities Workshop

GB3 convened a workshop for Boston area college and university staff on strategies for reducing air pollution at their campuses. Participants heard about air pollution reduction efforts by local colleges and universities, campus climate change action, running university shuttle buses on biodiesel, commuter benefits programs, compressed natural gas, construction retrofits, and anti-idling policies.

2005-2008 Working Group Meetings

The GB3 working group is comprised of businesses, government agencies, and environmental and health organizations from or working in the Greater Boston area. Working group meetings are held two to three times a year, and provide opportunities for participants to meet one another, hear about current projects, help direct the focus of GB3 efforts, and make connections for future collaboration.

2006 Construction Retrofit Workshop

GB3 partners convened a workshop for local contractors and Boston area institutions to discuss the use of contract requirements in reducing diesel emissions from construction equipment. Presenters shared their experiences with developing and implementing contract requirements, shared information on available technologies, and discussed the costs and benefits of implementing this strategy.

2007 Biodiesel Workshop

With the Massachusetts State Sustainability Program, GB3 convened a workshop for state, municipal, and private sector fleet managers on the use and applications of biodiesel. Presentations offered an overview of the technology, discussed regional supply and purchasing opportunities, and shared case studies on communities and organizations already using biodiesel.

2007-2008 Hospitals, Cleaning Construction and Reducing Diesel Emissions

With grants from the City of Boston and U.S. EPA, GB3 partners focused on reducing diesel emissions at Boston area hospitals. Partners conducted targeted outreach to hospitals with planned construction projects, presented on strategies for reducing diesel emissions for hospital staff and contracting firms, published case studies and best practices, and collaborated with Health Care Without Harm to modify credit requirements related to hospital idling policies and construction site vehicle management in the Green Guide to Health Care (GGHC) and LEED for Health Care.

2008 Reducing Diesel Emissions Workshops (NH and RI)

With the Northeast Diesel Collaborative, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, GB3 convened two workshops on reducing diesel emissions in hospitals, universities, and municipalities. The workshops, which were held in Rhode Island and New Hampshire, aimed to share the GB3 model with stakeholders outside of the Greater Boston area. Several GB3 partners shared information on technologies, strategies, and funding opportunities for reducing diesel emissions; and presented case studies of successful diesel emission reduction initiatives by hospitals, universities, and municipalities.