

The **AFSZ** is a project of
Real World Foundation

Asthma Free School Zone Newsletter

Asthma Prevention, Environmental Protection & Community Empowerment in a Neighborhood Setting

AFSZ Appearances Here & There

City Council Hearing
Intro 631 Testimony
School Zone Idling
250 Broadway, NYC
Nov. 25, 2008 ~ 2 PM

Press Conference
Stop Idling Day
PS 132, Bronx, NY
Nov. 21, 2008 ~ 9 AM
<http://www.ny1.com/Default.aspx?ArlD=89431>

CB3 MN Meeting
District Air Monitoring
Casa Victoria, NYC
Oct. 29, 2008 ~ 8 PM

Go Green Lower East Side
Apple Day Kickoff
Orchard St., NYC
Oct. 19, 2008 ~ 12-5 PM

Green Brooklyn
Brooklyn Boro Hall
Brooklyn, NY
Sept. 18, 2008 ~ 12-4 PM

AFSZ - ABC WIN Stop Idling Days

During the week of November 17-21, 2008, several AFSZ schools in Northern Manhattan held Stop Idling Days. The school-based initiatives were led by AFSZ and three local organizations, Asthma Basics for Children, WIN (Washington Heights Inwood Network) for Asthma, and Healthy Schools Healthy Families.

Schools began with a general awareness campaign, posting flyers to remind about the importance of clean air and turning off the engine, and to notify students, staff, and parents about the Stop Idling Days.

At PS 132, the Juan Pablo Duarte School, in Washington Heights, NYC Council Members John C. Liu and Miguel Martinez joined parent volunteers and environmental health advocates handing out information and speaking with drivers about the current idling law and the health, environmental and wasted fuel costs of idling.

Councilmembers Liu and Martinez gave a press conference at which they spoke about the importance of protecting children from harmful vehicle pollution at school. Parents spoke about the burden of asthma in the community. NY 1 reported on the press conference and the Stop Idling Day in both English and Spanish.

Air Quality Testing on the Lower East Side

In November, the AFSZ and Manhattan Community Board 3 began a year-round air monitoring project that will sample air quality for four weeks each season at ten sites throughout the Lower East Side.

The sites include elementary schools, a church, a NYCHA apartment and the AFSZ office on Avenue B. Seven sites are located at street level, two are on 4th or 5th floors, and one is on a 13th floor.

The project goal is to identify hot spots of spatial and temporal poor air quality: specifically, PM 2.5, particulate matter from pollution, and elemental (or black) carbon, produced by diesel exhaust, and ozone, a product of tailpipe emissions and sunlight. The LES has some significant potential sources of air pollution: the FDR Highway, three East River bridges and the 14th Street Con Ed power station.

The project is funded by environmental mitigation funds from CB3's 2001 settlement with Con Edison over the East River (14th St.) Power Plant expansion.



Legislative Action Begins on Intro 631

Advocates for and against Intro 631 and Intro 40 went before the NYC Council Environmental Committee on November 25th. Intro 631, which could bring long overdue changes to NYC's current idling law, was sponsored by CM John C. Liu, Chair of the Transportation Committee, at the urging of AFSZ, which helped shape its particulars.

Intro 631 will limit all idling in school zones to one minute and will add an idling question to the training and licensing of NYC taxi and limo drivers. Currently, school buses are the only vehicles limited to one-minute engine idling in school zones.

By recognizing and seeking to protect the vulnerability of school zone populations--children--Intro 631 is significant. It is hoped that this amendment to our underlying 1971 NYC idling law (Admin Code 163-24) will be only the beginning of legislative action to reduce airborne pollution in NYC school zones.

Learn more about Intro 0163-2007 and Intro 0040-2006 on www.nyc.gov.

Idle-Free NYC is coming!
May 5, 2009
www.idle-free.info