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Owera'son:a- The winds

I want to start off with an excerpt of the Ohenton Kariwatekwa which is thanksgiving for the natural world. The Haudenosaunee People say this before ceremonies and other events with in our community.

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Today I'm going to talk about what I have done as an intern under the mobile sources outreach grant. With this grant I focus on promoting carpooling, Idling, No Topping off your gas tank at the pump and car maintenance to reduce the impact on the air quality in my community. I will talk about projects I have done in regard to the listed topics. With the topic of mobile source compilation projects I will talk about past and current projects that combine the education of all 4 topics.

S4 CARPOOLING

When I first started as an intern last year I first of all wanted to see if people within my community were interested in carpooling. I wanted to also educate individuals about carpooling and its benefits. I went to tribal governments buildings within the community and conducted surveys. From this survey I learned that people were interested in carpooling and were willing to carpool 2-3 days a week. With this new knowledge at hand it was up to the tribal community members to carpool. We gave them the knowledge but it was up to them to determine if they would carpool.

Inter-office carpooling

Because we are the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment I thought that we should be contentious about carpooling. So on our in-out board at work. I set up a carpooling section and if an individual carpoled he or she would check a box next to her name.

Tribal Lobby Power-Point

This was also a way to educate our tribal community members. Expressed the benefits to carpooling

Inter-office Carpooling slogan contest

Within the tribal offices we started a slogan contest based on carpooling. Individuals submitted their ideas to Angela Benedict and a winner was chosen. And a window cling was made as well as the slogan was put up on a billboard.

S5 IDLING

Awareness Ticket

This idea came to us from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. We looked at the design of the ticket and then alter the design to fit our Akwesasne community. Any vehicles found idling would receive an Idling violation ticket. Then environment office worker would keep a carbon copy ticket. The individual would then return the ticket to the environment division, and their name would be written down. This ticketing system is in the process of being finalized.

S6 IDLING

IDLING Signs

These signs are a work in progress. These to sign designs in the future would be put up at local businesses to deter customers from idling their vehicles. With knowledge about idling hopefully akwesaronon will make the right decision to turn off their vehicle and build a better future for the next seven generations.

S7 IDLING

Aunty Idle

Speaking of the next seven generations I would like to introduce you all to Aunty Idle. Aunty Idle was designed to promote and deter people from idling their vehicles. Dressed in traditional Mohawk clothing, she is the mohawk cover girl of idling saying that at this rate there will be no 7th generation. We place her on our promotional items and use her in any way we can to educate the community about idling.

S8 Topping Off

Within the Akwesasne community gas stations line the road ways. Petroleum is one of the major money makers in the community. All these pumps are full service. Meaning that the workers as well as customers are exposed to hazardous fumes when gas is being pumped. This is due to the fact that Akwesasne does not have vapor recovery system on the pumps. So when a gas pumper or a customer says “fill it up” or “top it off” it produces harmful fumes into the air causing health problems such as asthma. Additionally by topping off it causes the clogging of the vehicles built in vapor recovery system. These signs are a work in progress and we hope to put up these signs to deter gas stations from topping off, for the betterment of health in the community.

S9 Car Maintenance

Car Maintenance

Car maintenance was promoted mostly during Wellness Day 2009. Wellness Day is where the Tribal businesses and sectors come out and connect with community members. At wellness Day we performed tire pressure check on community member’s vehicles. We also brought in the magic school bus to our community.

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Car Maintenance crew

Students volunteered and check the tire pressures on community members’ vehicles. The individual also received a tire pressure gage package that included a pen, flash light and other useful vehicle tools. With this education and tools the community gained knowledge as how to keep their vehicle maintenance.

S11 MAGIC SCHOOL BUS

The EPA produced a book in conjunction with the magic school bus. “The Magic School Bus Gets cleaned up”. We also got the bus to come for the children to enjoy. With the book we gave out this book to all the children who came on the bus. In the bus there were children’s computer games that related to the environment.

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The Air Quality Program (Julia Jacobs, Environmental Outreach Coordinator, Jade Gabri, Intern, Marlene Thompson, Technician, Jeri Jacobs and Angela Benedict, Program Manager) of the SRMT Environment Division was happy to participate in the 19th annual Winter Carnival in Kanatakon by sponsoring a road rally. Packets were given to all teams when registered. In the road rally, teams visit certain locations by solving a clue from their packet. Once at the location they answer a question and get a letter. Once the team has visited all the locations and all letters are received they need to form a certain word. Also in the packets were pictures and windsocks. The team needed to identify where these pictures were taken as well as where the windsocks were put out.

S13 Mobile Source Compilation Projects

The Akwesasne Boys and Girls club asked us to do a presentation on Mobile sources. So we taught the kids about carpooling, topping off, idling, recycling and burning. But we also asked the kids to draw picture of what they learned. With the pictures that they drew, I am going to incorporated them into an air quality calendar. This calendar will focus on the five topics as well as give tips on how to reduce impacts on air.

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So with that is there any question>?