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MEDIA CONTACT: Michelle Rosier 612-659-9124  
Sierra Club Minnesota Air Toxics Organizer

## **Over 1000 School Buses in Minneapolis and St. Paul Reduce Idling Thanks to Students' Campaign**

*15 School Districts across Minnesota have taken action  
to reduce diesel emissions from school buses*

**Minneapolis, MN, June 4, 2003** – Today, students in the Sierra Club's "Cleaner Bus" School campaign announced that at least 15 school districts, from Brainerd to South Washington County, have taken steps to reduce children's exposure to diesel emissions as a result of the "School Bus Diesel" law passed by the State of Minnesota in May 2002 and an outreach campaign by the Sierra Club and the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance.

In Minneapolis and St. Paul alone, 1,088 school buses have curbed unnecessary idling thanks to district-wide "no idling" policies. According to the U.S. EPA, a typical diesel vehicle burns approximately one gallon of diesel fuel for each hour it idles. Thus if Minneapolis and St. Paul school buses typically reduce idling by 20 minutes each day for 150 days per year at the cost of \$1 per gallon of diesel, \$54,300 in fuel costs can be saved annually.

In Minneapolis, the Transportation Department worked with the Sierra Club in designing their district-wide policy which prohibits idling of school buses unless needed for operation of lifts or weather equipment. "Adopting a 'no idling' policy was common sense," said Pam Blackamoore, Minneapolis School District's Transportation Director, "Minneapolis School District is committed to protecting students health and safety and we are proud of our 'no idling' policy."

Students from the "Cleaner Bus" School campaign met with the St. Paul School District's Transportation Director and later the School Board to discuss implementing a district-wide

policy. “The Saint Paul Public Schools is proud of the students who led this campaign. We have taken action to eliminate idling of our buses and periodically survey our bus loading areas to ensure compliance,” said Patrick Quinn, St. Paul Schools’ Executive Director of Social Services, “The initiative exercised by these young adults was totally aligned with our priority of enhancing kids' safety.”

In addition to Minneapolis and St. Paul Schools’, the following school districts also took action to reduce their school bus idling: Balaton, Brainerd, Central, Comfrey, South Washington County, Mahtomedi, Mankato, Minnetonka, Northland, Richfield, and St. James.

“Students did the research, lobbied for passage of the law, led outreach to involve schools, and continue to teach about the dangers of diesel pollution through curriculum in elementary and high schools,” said Amir Nadav, student leader of the “Cleaner Bus” School campaign, “I could have never imagined a year and a half ago when we started the ‘Cleaner Bus’ School campaign that we would have these kind of results.”

Other states are considering similar campaigns to reduce unnecessary idling, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency now has a Clean School Bus campaign to minimize idling and retrofit buses ([www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)).

The “Cleaner Bus” School campaign has received national recognition by the Department of Energy’s Smart Communities Network, the National Governor’s Association, and the American Lung Association.

For a complete list of “Cleaner Bus” School school districts and the actions they have taken or more information on the campaign, please visit: [www.northstar.sierraclub.org/schoolbus/pressreleases](http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/schoolbus/pressreleases)

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