

GREENING THE BORDER

CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE AT THE PEACE ARCH BORDER CROSSING



New Signal to reduce southbound emissions by 45%

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has taken the first step in a comprehensive “Greening the Border” initiative to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve air quality at the Peace Arch Border Crossing.

In a pilot project, a new traffic signal has been installed to move waiting traffic in a series of pulses, allowing motorists to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling by turning off their engines while waiting for traffic ahead to clear.

This will save fuel, improve air quality, and help British Columbia achieve its

target of reducing emissions by one-third by 2020, all without increasing border wait times.

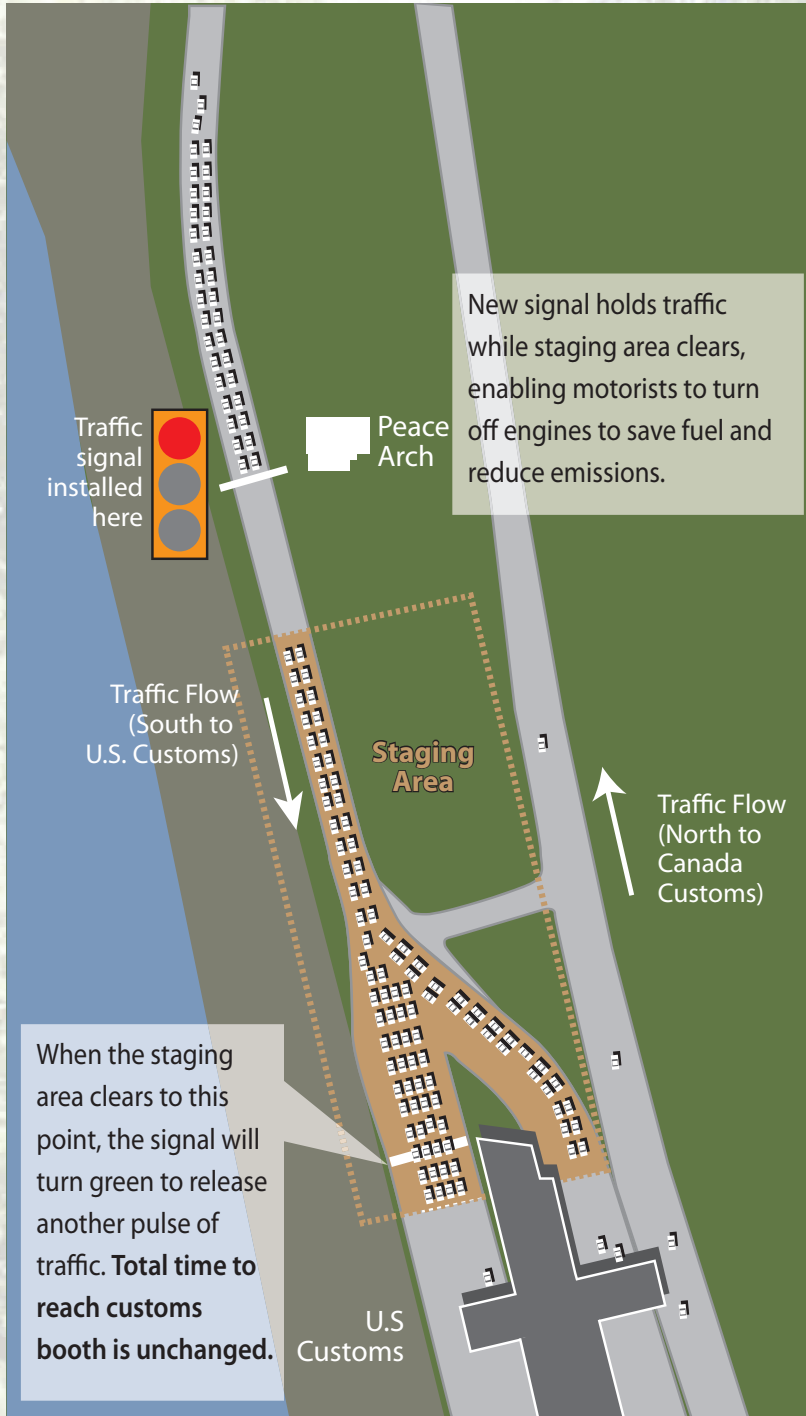
Greening the Border

Nearly 3 million vehicles pass through the Peace Arch Border Crossing every year. Waiting times for southbound motorists average about half an hour. It is estimated that implementation of this traffic signal alone can reduce GHG emissions from southbound traffic at the Peace Arch Border Crossing by 45%, while saving nearly half a litre of fuel per vehicle on each trip.

Turning off the engine while waiting in line at the Peace Arch crossing is just one way you can reduce emissions.

IDLE REDUCTION AT THE BORDER

HOW IT WORKS



Other techniques include using the Advanced Traveller Information System (ATIS) to avoid line-ups by selecting less-busy crossing locations, and membership in the NEXUS program which expedites pre-approved travellers with dedicated lanes and a simplified entry process.

The new idle reduction signal is just the first of a number of border crossing initiatives being considered in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation aimed at reducing our carbon footprint and reducing harmful pollutants on both sides of the border, and at other British Columbia/Washington border crossings.

British Columbia's Climate Action Plan and Air Action Plan

The Government of British Columbia has set a target of reducing GHG emissions by 33% by 2020, compared to 2007 levels. By 2050, GHG emissions in British Columbia will be 80% below 2007 levels.

The British Columbia public sector will be carbon-neutral by 2010 by implementing conservation measures including an aggressive campaign to reduce idling in government vehicles.

The Air Action Plan will help to improve air quality across British Columbia by promoting clean transportation, clean industry and clean communities.

A province-wide anti-idling campaign is a major part of the commitment to achieve lower tailpipe emissions and keep our air clean and healthy.

The Youth Climate Leadership Alliance

Young British Columbians between the ages of 17 and 28 can become personally involved in combating climate change through the \$3-million Youth Climate Leadership Alliance.

Opportunities include project work such as public education and outreach work as Idle-Free Ambassadors at the Peace Arch border crossing and in communities across the province.

Myth:

It's good for an engine to idle

Fact:

Idling reduces engine life
(by up to 20%)

Myth:

Idling helps my engine warm up

Fact:

The best way to warm up today's engines is to drive moderately

Pledge to be idle-free

Did you know that idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than turning off and restarting your engine? And that a half-hour of idling causes as much wear as driving 100 kilometres? Go to www.bcairquality.ca to pledge your commitment to be idle-free!

The Ministry of Environment is a founding partner in Idle-Free BC, an organization that raises awareness about the health, environmental and economic consequences of idling, while providing the support necessary to help minimize these impacts. The Provincial idle reduction initiatives are targeted to reduce idling by at least 50 per cent by 2010.

Shorten your waits with the Advanced Traveller Information System (ATIS)

Before leaving home, check border conditions online at www.th.gov.bc.ca/ATIS/index.htm or just follow the link from www.DriveBC.ca

Use the information to choose the border crossing with the shortest wait times. Electronic traffic signs on Highway 99 and Highway 15 give you current information, and another chance to choose the shortest line-ups.



Expedite your travel with NEXUS

Join the NEXUS program, a joint venture of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) designed to expedite the border clearance process for low risk, pre-approved travellers into Canada and the United States.

Membership costs just \$50 for five years and allows you to enjoy a quick and simplified entry process while travelling back and forth between Canada and the U.S., using dedicated lanes at the border.

Some useful links on the web

B.C. Travel Planning:

<http://www.HelloBC.com>

Highway conditions:

<http://www.DriveBC.ca>

Border conditions:

<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/ATIS/index.htm>

Expedited border crossings:

<http://www.getnexus.com>

Action on climate change, including the Air Action Plan and other initiatives:

<http://www.LiveSmartBC.ca>

B.C.'s Air Action Plan:

<http://www.bcairsmart.ca>

Youth Climate Leadership Alliance:

<http://www.ycla.ca>

Idle reduction:

<http://www.IdleFreeBC.ca> and

<http://www.bcairquality.ca>

<http://www.airwatchnorthwest.org>