



OBD Outreach and Communications Resources

Fact Sheets

On-Board Diagnostics Outreach Materials

< www.epa.gov/otaq/obd.htm>

EPA developed a folder, brochure, posters, and a series of fact sheets that describe OBD and how it works; the connection between OBD and vehicle emissions; how OBD informs drivers, inspectors, and repair technicians of emissions-related problems; the many benefits of OBD; and who to contact for more information.

On-Board Diagnostics: A New Generation of Motor Vehicles Fact Sheet

< www.des.state.nh.us/factsheets/ard/ard-30.htm>

Developed by New Hampshire, this fact sheet describes OBD, including how it works; its benefits to the environment, the consumer, and the repair technician; new testing requirements; and how to service OBD-related problems.

Fact Sheet: On-Board Diagnostics

< www.deq.state.or.us/aq/factsheets/OnBoardDiagnostics.pdf>

This fact sheet, developed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, includes general background on the state's OBD testing program, as well as the link between OBD and cleaner air.

Facts About On-Board Diagnostic II Systems (OBD II)

< arbis.arb.ca.gov/msprog/obdprog/obdfaq.htm>

This fact sheet, developed by the California Air Resources Board, includes general information about OBD in a simple question-and-answer format.

Understanding On-Board Diagnostics (OBD)

< www.epa.state.il.us/air/vim/faq/obdlong.html>

This fact sheet, developed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Air Team, describes the OBD system, how it works, its relation to vehicle emissions, and the basics of the OBD check. The fact sheet also provides answers to questions about warranty coverage and what to do if a vehicle doesn't pass the OBD check, as well as resources for more information.

"OBD": What is it and What Does it Mean to You?

< www.fredsgarage.com/OBD.htm>

This fact sheet by Fred Bordoff, president of the New York State Association of Service Stations and Repair Shops, includes a brief history of OBD and how it works.

Web Sites

OBD Clearinghouse, Weber State University's Center for Automotive Science and Technology

< obdclearinghouse.com>

Aims to facilitate communication between public officials and the automotive industry by gathering and sharing information on OBD technology and regulatory requirements.

OBDII Research Center, Colorado State University

< www.obdiicsu.com>

Offers a central location for information on OBD, and provides a forum for I/M administrators to raise and discuss important OBD-related issues.

Alliance of Automotive Service Providers

< www.autoserviceproviders.com>

Offers a variety of OBD outreach materials targeting repair shop owners and technicians.

Car Care Council

< carcarecouncil.org>

A non-profit organization dedicated to educating motorists about the importance of vehicle maintenance and repair.

International Automotive Technicians Network

< iatn.net >

Organized as a bulletin board, this network allows technicians to exchange information on everything from repair shop management to emissions-related issues.

On-Board Diagnostics Program, California Air Resources Board

< arbis.arb.ca.gov/msprog/obdprog/obdprog.htm >

Offers a range of consumer-oriented and technical information on OBDII.

The OBDII Home Page, B&B Electronics

< www.obdii.com/obdii.html >

Designed to help consumers and independent technicians understand and use OBDII technology.

Frequently Asked Questions About On-Board Diagnostics (OBD), Woman Motorist (courtesy of the Car Care Council)

< www.womanmotorist.com/MAINTENANCE/ccc-epa-faq-OBD-2k-01.shtml >

Provides the basics of OBD, including how it helps consumers ensure proper emissions controls in their vehicles.

OBD Q&A, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

< vehicletest.state.ma.us/obdqa.html >

Offers a thorough review of OBD, including how it can save consumers money.

Brochures

What Does My Check Engine Light Mean? On-Board Diagnostics II

Developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, this 2-page brochure explains OBD and how it works, how OBD will lead to cleaner air, and what consumers should do if their OBD system detects a problem. For a copy of this brochure, call the Air Care Colorado Hotline at 303-456-7090.

Understanding On-Board Diagnostics Testing

< www.epa.state.il.us/air/vim/faq/quickfacts.html >

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Air Team developed this 2-page brochure on the basics of OBD testing.

New Hampshire's Enhanced Vehicle Safety Inspection Program: On-Board Diagnostics

< www.des.state.nh.us/ard/obdII.pdf >

Produced by the New Hampshire Department of Safety and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, this 2-page brochure introduces OBD and how it works, the new vehicle testing requirements, and how to service OBD-related problems.

Air Pollution Control in Vermont: On-Board Diagnostics

< www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/air/docs/obd.pdf >

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources developed this 2-page brochure that explains OBD and how it works, the link between OBD and vehicle air emissions, how OBD can help consumers, how motorists should respond to the "Check Engine" light, and service and repair issues.

Tool Kits

Communications Tool Kit

< weber.edu/autocenter/obd-ch/toolkit.html >

Contains materials to help states implement an effective OBD outreach program, including a primer for states on developing an effective public outreach plan; and CD-ROMs containing OBD logos, outdoor billboard designs, magazine and newspaper ads, press release letterhead, sample press release, owner's manual page layouts, and eight finished radio commercials. Produced by the Center for Automotive Science and Technology at Weber State University.

OBDII Outreach Materials

< www.obdiicsu.com >

A variety of outreach materials available to order (for a fee) including two customizable brochures for drivers, a 16-page service writer's reference guide, a Check Engine light fact sheet for consumers, a poster, and a laminated service writer's counter pad. Produced by Colorado State University's National Center for Vehicle Emissions Control and Safety.

Easy Breathers

< www.easybreathers.org >

Developed with support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, this project was produced entirely by students and explains the importance of proper vehicle maintenance to young adults, including information on the OBD system and its relationship to the Check Engine light. It includes a video, brochure, and companion Web site with online activities related to car care and clean air.

Radio and TV Announcements

OBDII Public Service Announcement

EPA developed a public service announcement on OBD. The theme is "Emission control...we have a problem" and links a space shuttle launch (and its associated advanced technologies) with starting up a vehicle with a sophisticated OBD system. E-mail obd@epa.gov for more information.

Air Pollution Control in Vermont: On-Board Diagnostics Radio and TV Announcements

< weber.edu/autocenter/OBD.htm >

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources partnered with the Lung Association of Vermont to develop a radio and TV announcement, which can be reviewed on the Weber State Web site.

On-Board Diagnostics Sample Radio Announcements

Developed by New Hampshire, these radio announcements introduce the concept of OBD to young adults.

Videos

OBD Training Video

Working with the Service Technicians Society (STS), EPA sponsored the development of an OBD training video directed at automotive repair technicians.

Shadetree Mechanic: OBD II Engine Troubleshooting & Repair

EPA and General Motors co-sponsored an episode of this syndicated television show. The show's hosts explain OBD and how to use scan tools and other OBD-equipment to diagnose and repair automobiles. Use of the video is restricted by Scripps Productions. The video can be used for in-house training and trade show booths. Any questions about the show should be directed to Scripps Productions at 423-690-9950.

Technician Training Materials and Course Offerings

Various training options provided by numerous types of organizations are available for technicians. Some programs have courses specifically on OBD, and other programs incorporate information on OBD into related coursework (e.g., as part of certification programs on automotive powertrain systems). Training materials and programs specifically focusing on OBD include:

- **The Center for Automotive Science & Technology at Weber State University** is a nationally recognized center for OBD training. The Center offers a 3-day training course that familiarizes each participant with OBD regulations as they currently apply to all vehicle manufacturers. The course is based on a 70-page manual produced by Weber State. A Quick Reference Guide includes more than 100 technical terms and frequently used EPA acronyms. You can register for the course or request a copy of the manual online at <obdclearinghouse.com>.

- **The National Center for Vehicle Emissions Control and Safety (NCVECS) at Colorado State University** offers OBD training on campus or at a client's preferred site. NCVECS training sessions are customized for each audience, including repair technicians, automotive instructors, program administrators and staff, and the public. "Train-the-Trainer" programs are available for automotive instructors. Costs vary depending on the level of training provided. More information is available at <www.obdiisu.com>.
- **On-Board Diagnostics II Systems Inspection and Diagnostics.** Developed for Vermont, this inspector reference guide provides an overview of OBD and the state's plans for OBD testing as well as an introduction to scan tools and system monitors, inspection procedures, laboratory exercises, and a glossary of terms. It also includes an accompanying training video. For more information, contact the agency's Air Pollution Control Division at 802-241-3840.
- **On-Board Diagnostics II Inspection Training Materials.** Oregon has developed training materials on OBD for emissions inspectors in the state. For more information, contact the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality at 503-229-5696.

Other similar courses are offered at institutions such as colleges and universities, automotive and technical training institutes and professional organizations, vehicle manufacturers, manufacturers of automotive repair equipment, and state training programs.