

Idle Free New Jersey

Presentation overview:

- Address common misconceptions about idling
- Discuss vehicle idling in New Jersey
- Tell you what you can do about idling



But first a quiz...



Is it better to leave the car running rather than turning it off?

No!

- Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Frequent restarting has little impact on battery and starter.
- Catalytic converters, on vehicles to reduce pollution, stay warm for 25+ minutes - frequent stops and starts not as harmful as cold starts.

Is it important to idle for a few minutes to warm up the engine, especially in winter?

No!

- ☛ Tests show no more than 30 seconds needed to circulate engine oil.
- ☛ All parts of the vehicle (transmission, tires, suspension, steering and wheel bearings) need to warm up, not just the engine.
- ☛ Catalytic converters only work at high temperatures. When cars are started cold, they minimally reduce pollution.
- ☛ Best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it.

Isn't idling good for a vehicle?

No!

☛ Idling can damage engines.

- Engine isn't at peak operating temperature.
- Fuel doesn't undergo complete combustion.
- Idling leaves fuel residues that can contaminate engine oil and damage engine parts.
- Excessive idling can allow water to condense in vehicle's exhaust.

☛ Fuel injected vehicles don't require idling unlike carbureted engines of the past.

Why do people idle?

- ❏ Winter to warm up vehicle or stay warm
- ❏ Summer to stay cool
- ❏ School drop-off and pick-up
- ❏ Waiting for someone
- ❏ Charging cell phone
- ❏ Drive-thru windows
- ❏ Gas stations
- ❏ Using automatic vehicle starters
- ❏ Commercial vehicles
- ❏ Force of habit



Idling in New Jersey

- NJ State Law prohibits idling more than three minutes for both diesel and gasoline vehicles.
 - N.J.A.C. 7:27-14, 15
 - N.J.S.A. 39:3-70.2
- NJ Department of Health and Senior Services estimated 11% of NJ citizens suffer from asthma.
- Millburn Township passed No Idling Resolution on November 20, 2007.



Why stop idling?

Health benefits

- Children breathe at tailpipe level.
- Children breathe at faster rate than adults, so breathe more polluted air.
- Breathing polluted air causes asthma, lung problems and allergies.

Save fuel and money

- 1/10 gallon per 20 minutes
- 90¢ per hour @ \$3.00/gallon
- 10 minutes of idling uses as much fuel as traveling 5 miles
- Increase the life of vehicles.

Reduce greenhouse gasses

- Prevent global warming.
- Catalytic converters form nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas.
- 19 pounds CO₂ per gallon gas

Reduce air pollution

- Especially when vehicle is cold.
- Exposure to pollutants actually higher inside vehicle.



What can I do?

- If you're going to be stopped for more than **10 seconds**, turn off your car.
- Plan for the weather (dress appropriately, use blankets for kids).
- Minimize warm-up idling to **30 seconds**.
- Warm-up all parts of vehicle by starting slow.
- Limit use of remote car starters.
- Buy a hybrid.
- Educate others about idling.

Where can I get more information?

- Idle free New Jersey

<http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef/campaigns-noidling.html>

- Natural Resources Canada, Office of Energy Efficiency, Idle Free Zone <http://idling.gc.ca>

- School Bus Idling in NJ <http://www.stophesoot.org/sts-schools.htm>



Millburn Township

- Signed the [No Idling Resolution for Municipalities](#)
- Posted signs at schools and other locations prone to idling
- Designed bookmarks and other materials
- Worked with schools
- Partnered with other municipalities



Chatham Southern Boulevard School

Turn the Key - Be Idle Free Week

- Inventoried idling habits
- Sent letters home with students
- Spoke with parents on carpool line
- Handed out "No idling" stickers



Idle Free You and Me

There are so few things that are good for you
and so easy to do
and you can pat yourself on the back and say,
"I did something good today."

