



Clean Air Zone - Introduction

Implementing a voluntary anti-idling program

Did You Know?

- ✓ Running vehicles emit many air pollutants including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter and hazardous air pollutants.
- ✓ Accident reports show school buses are the safest way for children to get to school. However, levels of air pollution inside the buses may be up to four times higher than outside. Clean Air Zone programs provide information on how to reduce air pollution.
- ✓ Idling vehicles waste fuel and money. Thirty seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it. School districts that implement no-idling policies not only clean the air for children, but save money as well.

What is an Anti-Idling Program?

An anti-idling program is a voluntary commitment to reduce idling vehicles near school grounds. While dropping off or picking students up from school and waiting, idling buses emit air pollution. Idling buses burn up to one-half gallon of fuel per hour, emitting significant levels of small particles (fine particulate matter) that can aggravate respiratory conditions and cause lung damage. Other idling vehicles of parents/guardians emit many air pollutants as well.

What Your School Can Do

Create a Clean Air Zone around your school, which comprehensively addresses children's exposure to air pollution.

- Adopt a school no-idling policy.
- Post signs around major drop-off zones that encourage drivers to turn off their engines.
- Inform parents and other vehicle users such as delivery trucks about no-idling policies in front of schools, especially during periods when large numbers of children are present (pick-up and drop-off times).
- Include information on no-idling policies in school newsletters.
- Park buses away from children's gathering places and building intake vents.
- Reinforce smart driving practices such as following at least three car lengths behind any vehicle with visible exhaust or noticeable odors.
- Create an indoor waiting area for bus drivers.
- Establish a program to recognize and reward drivers who successfully reduce idling.

Included in this Toolkit/CD-ROM

- Health effects of diesel exhaust
- Sample *Clean Air Zone* school policy
- Signs to designate no-idle zones
- Sample letters, newsletter articles, and fact sheets for parents, guardians, and community members
- Sample presentations for school officials and parent associations