

# Summit Does Not Idle



No idling at  
Franklin School



No idling at  
Summit High School



Prepared by the Summit  
Environmental Commission

## Learn the Facts About Idling

Sitting in your car with the engine running ("Idling") is probably not something you think about much. But when you are waiting in a line with your car engine running -- during pick up or drop off times at schools, at the bank/ATM machine, at a restaurant drive-through -- you are polluting the air, wasting fuel and money, and if you idle for more than 3 minutes, breaking the law. So learn the facts, protect your family and neighbors' health, and turn your car engine off!

### Idling is Unhealthy, particularly for children

- Pollution from exhaust can negatively affect a child's lung growth and development.
- Children breathe 50% more air per pound than adults, are closer to the ground and, therefore, closer to vehicle tailpipes.
- Asthma symptoms in children increase as a result of exposure to car exhaust.
- Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences.
- Exhaust emissions aggravate asthma, bronchitis and allergies in everyone.

### Idling is "fuelish"

- Idling gets **ZERO** miles per gallon. Only ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning the engine off and on. Idling just 10 minutes a day wastes more than 29 gallons of fuel each year.
- Idling is not an effective way to warm up your car, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive. In winter conditions, emissions are more than double normal level, and fuel consumption is also higher.
- Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems. Fuel is only partially combusted when idling because the engine does not operate at its peak temperature.

### Idling is Illegal

- Idling in New Jersey for more than 3 minutes is against the law, with limited exceptions.
- Idling fines begin at \$100 for passenger vehicles and \$250 for commercial vehicles.

### So take the "No Idling" Pledge:

1. If I am going to be parked for more than 30 seconds, I will turn off the engine, especially in areas around schools.
2. I will maintain my car or truck in order to keep emissions low.
3. I will encourage my family and friends to eliminate idling.

Sources: NJ Dept of Environmental Protection

[http://www.stophesoot.org/idling\\_whats\\_the\\_problem.pdf](http://www.stophesoot.org/idling_whats_the_problem.pdf) ; <http://www.nj.gov/dep/aqaweek/> ;  
Earth Day Network <http://www.earthday.org/noidling>