

## Stop Them Idling Ways!

Many drivers feel that warming up the car for 2-30 minutes before driving and leaving it to idle while running into the store for a quick stop is more efficient and better for the car than turning it on and off many times throughout the day. However, since the introduction of electronically controlled engines it is not necessary to warm your car up for more than 30 seconds in cold or warm weather. Incomplete combustion during idling leaves fuel residues that can contaminate oil and damage engine components, including cylinders and spark plugs. Excessive idling can also cause water condensation in the exhaust system, which can cause premature corrosion. All of these damages cause reduced engine efficiency and increase fuel consumption.

Equally detrimental are the effects idling has on the environment and our health. The increase in the number of vehicles and their run-time increases the carbon produced with every mile on the road and every minute of engine idling.

The exhaust spewed into the air while a car or truck is idling include carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, greenhouse gasses that are major contributors to climate change, deteriorating air quality and smog.

Check out this list of things you can do right now to decrease the negative carbon impact of your own idling ways:

- Turn the engine off!
- Reduce warm-up time to 30 seconds.
- Remember to turn the car off when waiting for your child at school: car emissions are particularly harmful to smaller bodies as they have a higher intake of air relative to their body size than adults.
- When you go to the drive-through turn the car off as you wait – remember the exhaust fumes can go into the building and cause problems for the staff.
- Look at reducing car usage – can children walk to school rather than be driven? Can you walk or bike to your town destination?
- Talk to your friends and others about creating idle free zones.
- Encourage others to turn their engines off.
- Keep on the look-out for more information about idling on this website and thank you for doing your part to improve the environment.