



Anti-Idling 101

Hillsborough Township

February 22, 2024

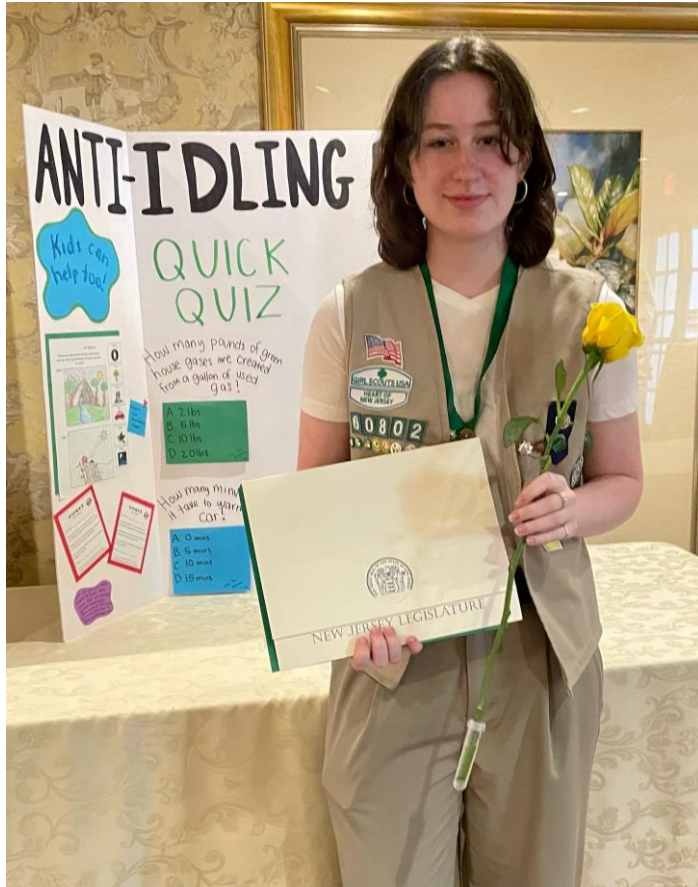


We're RideWise!

RideWise Inc. is an independent non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting and advocating for transportation choices that are efficient, safe, and sustainable.

RideWise engages with large and small employers, local government, state agencies, school districts, and other non-profits to advocate for travel options that are good for business, good for the environment, and good for communities. RideWise achieves this through programming that focuses on pedestrian safety, public transit, biking and ridesharing.





RideWise & Anti-Idling

RideWise had the wonderful opportunity to partner with a local Girl Scout, Scarlett D'Aprile, on her Gold Award, the highest award available in Girl Scouts.

For her project, Scarlett created activities and lesson plans for students, both in younger grades and in high school driver's education classes, focusing on anti-idling and the effect of gas-powered vehicles on air quality.

Test Your Anti-Idling Knowledge

How much can you be fined for idling?

- A. \$0
- B. \$250
- C. \$500
- D. \$1000



How long does it take for idling to cause damage to your engine?

- A. 5 minutes
- B. 15 seconds
- C. 30 seconds
- D. 3 minutes



How many minutes should it take to warm up your car?

- A. 0 minutes
- B. 5 minutes
- C. 10 minutes
- D. 15 minutes





What is idling?

Idling is when your vehicle is not moving but the engine is still running.

Idling occurs more often than you think:

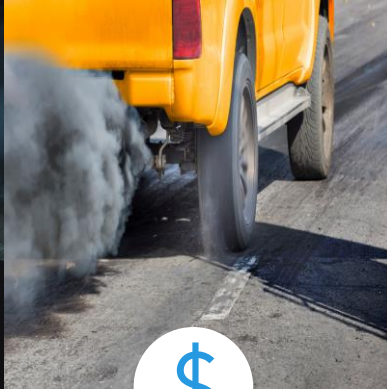
- Parking lots
- Traffic
- School pick up/drop off times
- Drive-thru

Idling impacts **all** areas of our life and our community.



Health

- Idling increases air pollution which is linked to asthma and other health problems.



Financial

- Idling is like burning dollars! Most people waste 1-2 tanks of gas every year by idling.



Environmental

- Idling personal vehicles generate around 30 million tons of CO2 each year.



Legal

- Idling is against the law – in NJ, there's a \$250+ fine for idling your car for more than 3 minutes!



Car Damage

- Idling for more than 30 seconds can damage your car engine by causing fuel residue to build up.



Health

- Idling your car has negative impacts on our health. Idling increases the pollution in the air. Air pollution is linked to asthma and other respiratory problems.
- Children are at a **greater risk** for respiratory problems because they breathe **50% more** air per pound of body weight than adults.
- Pollutants caused by idling can increase the risk of lung and heart disease, lung inflammation, cancer, and even premature death.

Sources: Utah Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality "Health Effects: Be Idle Free" (2023)
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality "Why is Idling Harmful?"



Financial

- Idling is like burning dollars! Most people waste **1-2 tanks** of gas every year by idling.
- If you cut down on **8 minutes** of idling per day, that is an annual savings of **\$67** for 4-cylinder engines and **\$134** for 8-cylinder engines.
- "Even when fuel prices are as low as \$2 per gallon, wasted fuel translates into more than **\$11 billion annually**—much of which could be saved with idle reduction technologies" (USAFDC).

Sources: North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality "Why is Idling Harmful?"

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection "Stop the Soot"

US Department of Energy Alternative Fuels Data Center "Idling Reduction Benefits and Considerations"



Environmental

- In the US, idling personal vehicles generate approximately **30 million tons** of carbon dioxide each year.
- "An idling vehicle releases harmful chemicals, gases and particle pollution ("soot") into the air, contributing to **ozone**, **regional haze**, and **global climate change**" (NCDEQ).
- More toxic pollutants are inhaled by people sitting in idling cars than people outside of the car.

Sources: US Department of Energy (2021)

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality "Why is Idling Harmful?"

Utah Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality "Health Effects: Be Idle Free" (2023).



Legal

- Idling is against the law – in NJ, there’s a \$250+ fine for idling your car for more than 3 minutes
 - For commercial vehicle and property owner, \$250 for first violation, \$500 for second violation, \$1000 for third and each subsequent violation.
- Excessive idling can be reported to the NJDEP’s hotline: 1-877 WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337) or on the WARN DEP app. You can also report to your regional field office.
- Nearly all county health departments can enforce idling. In addition, State and local police departments can enforce on public roadways and on private property.

Source: Summary of N.J. Idling Requirements for Motor Vehicles N.J.A.C. 7:27-14,15 (Revised November 2019)

Exceptions to 3 Minute Rule



Motor vehicles stopped in traffic



Motor vehicles whose primary power source is utilized in whole or in part for necessary and prescribed mechanical operations such as refrigeration units for perishable loads, hydraulic lifts, "cherry pickers", or similar equipment



Motor vehicles waiting to be examined by state or federal motor vehicle inspectors or motor vehicles while being repaired



Vehicles that are actively performing emergency services, such as fire, police, military, snow removal, and utility vehicles



Operation of auxiliary or alternate power systems for cabin comfort



A motor vehicle with a sleeper berth, equipped with a 2007 or newer engine, or that has been retrofitted with a diesel particulate filter while the driver is resting or sleeping in the sleeper berth. Other idling is still prohibited.



Car Damage

- Idling for more than **30 seconds** can damage your car engine.
- Idling causes fuel residue to build up because the engine is not operating at its peak temperature to burn it off. This causes both damage and fuel inefficiency.
- Modern cars' engines and interiors warm up faster while the car is driving, as opposed to older cars which needed to idle and warm up first before driving.
- Modern gas and diesel vehicles do not suffer damage by being turned on and off. Starters and batteries are much more durable now than they were in the past - turning off the vehicle will not damage it, while idling the vehicle will.

Sources: Amy Leibrock, "10 Reasons to Turn Off an Idling Car," Sustainable America, May 24th, 2013

"Consumer Guide to Reducing Vehicle Idling," US Department of Energy, December 2021



Winter Idling / Warming Up

- It takes **0 minutes** to warm up your car before driving!
- Warming up a car before driving is unnecessary and wasteful. It's actually faster to warm up the car by driving instead of idling.
- According to *Popular Mechanics Magazine*, "Warming up your car before driving is a leftover practice from when the carburetor engines dominated the roads," and it took longer for engines to become lubricated.
- According to *Consumer Reports*: "Modern cars have improved in technology to the point where your engine is fully lubricated within 20 to 30 seconds. By the time you get in, start the car, put on your seat belt, and get comfortable, the engine might not be fully warm. But it's completely lubricated, and you're okay to drive at this point."



What is NJ (and Hillsborough!) doing to combat idling?

- NJ has the anti-idling law and resources to educate communities, businesses, the transportation sector, and more on how to reduce vehicle emissions (dep.nj.gov/stopthesoot)
- NJ is also investing more in EV infrastructure and tax credits, to encourage more people to switch to EVs over gas vehicles (dep.nj.gov/drivegreen)
- NJ encourages alternative ways of travel as well – for example, Complete Streets, which advocates that all roadways be usable for all modes of transportation, including biking and walking
- **Hillsborough also has its own anti-idling resolution, and has interactive anti-idling resources on its website at hillsborough-nj.org/boards/green-team!**

Turn the key, be idle free!

It saves gas!
Most people waste up to two entire tankfuls of gas each year by idling

It saves money!

It protects your health!
Car exhaust contains air toxins, which can cause cancer, respiratory damage, reproductive and birth defects, or other serious health problems

Sustainable Jersey Hillsborough
NJ's Greenest, One Community at a Time

Township of Hillsborough
COUNTY OF BERKESEL
THE PETER J. BRAND BUILDING
376 SOUTH BRANCH ROAD
HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08064
(609) 969-4313
www.hillsboroughnj.org

Resolution in Support Of Anti-Idling Policy

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, fine particulates, and

WHEREAS, numerous scientific studies have found links between exposure to fine particles and health effects, including premature death, and increased incidents of asthma, allergies, and other breathing disorders; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has classified diesel exhaust as likely to be carcinogenic to humans; and

WHEREAS, vehicle idling occurs in locations (e.g. school grounds, parking lots, distribution centers, strip malls, construction sites, business centers, etc.) where New Jerseyans can be exposed to concentrated sources of air pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, one-third of greenhouse gas emissions comes from the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, asthma is a significant public health concern in New Jersey, especially among children (up to 25% of New Jersey's school-age children are asthmatic) and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of fine-particle emissions from diesel engines could also prevent 16,000 new asthma cases annually and save \$770 million to \$1.0 billion in health care and related costs in the State; and

WHEREAS, petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel are nonrenewable fuels and should be used wisely and not wasted; and

WHEREAS, idling is not generally beneficial to a vehicle's engine because it wears engine parts; and

WHEREAS, idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and emits more pollutants than turning an engine off and on again; and

WHEREAS, current state law prohibits the idling of vehicles for more than three minutes, and studies have shown that an anti-idling policy will save fuel, prolong engine life, and improve air quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that it supports the adoption of a strong anti-idling policy by government agencies, schools, businesses, and other organizations by:

1. Make enforcing existing violations and penalties under New Jersey's existing no-idling law a priority for all municipal Police Officers pursuant to C. 39-3-70.2 and C. 26-2C-1;



What can we personally do to combat idling?

- Don't idle!!! Turn the car off.
- Consider alternative modes of transportation – walking, biking, taking public transit, or carpooling/vanpooling
- If you're able, get an EV – no emissions, when idling or in-motion!



Resources



Stop the Soot

NJ DEP'S Stop the Soot webpage includes FAQs and data related to idling, as well as toolkits and resources on how you, your community, school, or other organizations can join the anti-idling movement.

dep.nj.gov/stophthesoot



Sustainable Jersey

Sustainable Jersey has an action geared towards reducing idling in communities: Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program. It includes steps, guides and how-to's.

www.sustainablejersey.com/actions/#open/action/38



Sustainable America

Sustainable America has a toolkit titled, "Turn It Off: Anti-Idling Toolkit." This toolkit has resources for communities, schools, and a pledge you can take to reduce idling in your community.

iturnitoff.com



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?



Call: 908.704.1011 | Email: sara@ridewise.org | Visit: ridewise.org
sarah@ridewise.org
anyasha@ridewise.org