Did you know?

Many people believe that they are protected from air pollution if they remain inside their vehicles. However, the International Center for Technology Assessment found that exposure to most auto pollutants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and carbon monoxide (CO), is much higher inside vehicles than at the roadside. VOCs and CO are linked to serious health problems - like respiratory irritation and cancer – and are known to shorten life (www.icta.org). The highest exposure occurs when sitting in traffic congestion on highways or in a line-up of idling vehicles outside a school.

Do Windsor A Favour-Turn Off Your Engine

One way to reduce smog and comply with Windsor's anti-idling by-law is to turn off your engine (Bylaw# 233-2001, www.cityofwindsor.ca). Idling engines produce twice as much exhaust emissions as engines in motion because they are not operating at peak temperature, which means fuel combustion is incomplete.

The solution is literally in your hands – it's as easy as turning a key. By turning off your vehicle when you are parked, you can improve the air you breathe, save money, and stop harmful gases from entering the atmosphere.

Ready To Do Your Part? Here's a five-step process that can help you reduce vehicle idling:

Step 1: Reduce warm-up idling. Start driving after no more than 30 seconds of idling, assuming your vehicle's windows are clear.

Step 2: If you are going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds (except in traffic), turn off your engine. Idling your vehicle for longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel than it would take to restart the vehicle.

Step 3: Avoid using a remote car starter. These devices encourage you to start your vehicle before you are ready to leave, which means wasteful idling.

Step 4: In temperatures below 0°C, use a block heater to warm the engine before you start your vehicle. This will improve fuel efficiency and reduce exhaust emissions.

Step 5: Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about the benefits of reduced idling. Encourage them to join you in saving money, protecting the environment, and contributing to a healthier community.

Sponsored by:



WECEC- Windsor Essex County Environment Committee

HRSDC Canada

Friends of the Environment Foundation

For more information:visit www.idlefreewindsor.org, call 973-1156, or e-mail liaison@citizensenvironmentalliance.org Vehicle Emisssions and Children's Health

NDSO

Health Issues and Concerns

In Windsor-Essex County (WEC), smog is causing thousands of emergency hospital visits, costing our health care system over 23 million dollars to treat unnecessary respiratory illness. What's worse is that 9% of all non-accidental deaths in WEC are due to smog.

Children are particularly vulnerable to smog because their lungs are still developing, they spend more time outdoors being physically active, they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per kilogram of body weight. In fact, smog has been found to:

•Aggravate asthma, leading to more frequent and severe asthma attacks;

•Increase the number of respiratory infections;

Aggravate and induce allergies;

•Increase school day absences; and

•Increase emergency room visits, hospital admissions and premature deaths.

Fast Fact

DID YOU KNOW that if every driver of a light-duty vehicle in Windsor avoided idling for 5 minutes a day, the city could prevent 41.03 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each day?

That's 14,976.30 tonnes per year! This is equal to the weight of 3,744 African elephants.

By avoiding idling for 5 minutes a day, Windsor motorists could, each day, collectively avoid wasting 17,386.0 litres of fuel worth \$19,124.60. On an annual basis, this translates into savings of 6,345,889.9 litres worth \$6,980,478.90.

Source:http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/tools/co2 -calculator/

Health Effects

Effects of Vehicle Emissions

Headaches

Aggravates Asthma and Allergies Lung Disease

Impaired Learning

Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of vehicle emissions because their lungs and airways are immature. Also, their breathing zone is lower than adults so they are more exposed to vehicle exhausts and heavier pollutants that concentrate at lower levels in the air. **Vehicle Emissions**

Carbon Monoxide

Nitrogen Oxides

Particulate Matter

Ground Level Ozone

Vehicle exhaust emits chemicals that have harmful effects. Carbon monoxide diminishes the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the body.Nitrogen oxides irritate upper air passages and the lungs. Other exhaust toxins such as benzene are classified as probable or definite carcinogens.

Consider This...

When cars, trucks, and buses are left running while parked, they produce pollution that contributes to problems like smog and illness. Idling is particularly an issue at schools – many parents idle their vehicles while waiting to pick up their children. This is compounded by the fact that due to commuting traffic, smog is already at its daily peak when parents are picking up their kids.