

# Green-Schools



## No Idling Toolkit for Schools



## What is Engine Idling?

Engine idling is any time your car engine is running but you're not moving, usually for more than 10-20 seconds.

e.g. waiting outside school, at a red light, roadworks, etc.



## Why should we stop Engine Idling?

Running a car without going anywhere just doesn't make any sense!

Here are four reasons why:

**Environment:** When an engine is running, it emits carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the main greenhouse gas responsible for climate change. By switching off your engine when stopped, you stop these emissions too!

**Health:** Idling makes for worse air quality, which is bad for human health. Young people are at greater risk of the health impacts of air pollution because their lungs are still developing.

**Money:** Idling wastes fuel that you're paying for - that just burns a hole in your pocket!

**Safety:** When cars and buses are idling outside a school, it is harder for students to hear cars that are actually moving, which might be hidden behind the idling cars.

While electric cars don't idle, and many modern cars have stop-start technology (a feature that switches off the engine when the car isn't moving), there are still many vehicles that are guilty of needless idling outside our schools!

You might have seen a lot of idling at your own school: buses idle when loading passengers, parents idle when waiting for their children, and your friends may idle to "warm up" their engine!





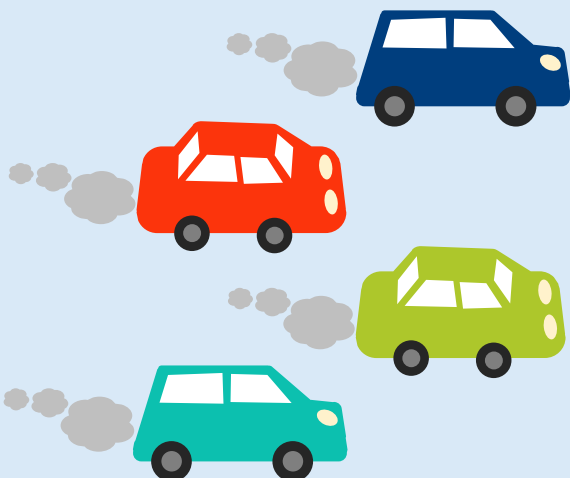
## What can we do at school?

With some good information and a friendly smile, you can cut the idling and reduce carbon emissions at your school, improve air quality and make your school area safer and healthier!

### Here are some ideas to get you going:

- Discuss a “No Idling” campaign with the Green-Schools committee
- Learn why idling is bad for the environment and our health
- Conduct an idling survey and record the data
- Include a “No Idling” campaign in your Action Plan
- Raise awareness - share information with your family and friends
- Design your own “No Idling” slogan, poster and/or logo
- Display posters and information on idling around your school
- Create a leaflet to send home and share with your local community
- Ask parents to sign a pledge to stop idling
- Share information and ideas on your school website, Facebook page, etc.
- Promote walking, scooting and cycling

Share your results and information on the Green-Schools notice board!



### Resources:

In the following pages you will find resources to help you with your “No Idling” campaign:

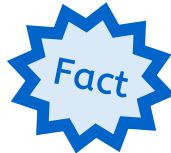
- Myths and facts on idling
- Sample letter to parents
- “No Idling” survey recording sheet
- “No Idling” pledge
- Wordsearch
- Colouring sheets

## Facts and Myths on Idling

Use the facts below to help your school community to understand what is true and untrue about idling. Print them out and display them in your school. Share them in your newsletter, web page, social media, etc.



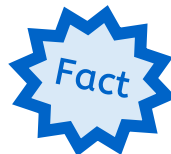
Emissions from idling and driving are the same.



Idling creates worse emissions than driving. When a car is driving, the engine heats up faster and the catalytic converter becomes more efficient at reducing emissions.



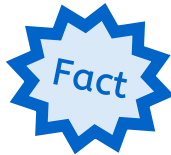
Starting a vehicle uses more fuel than letting the vehicle idle.



More than 10 seconds of idling uses *more* fuel than restarting the engine, thanks to fuel-injection systems.



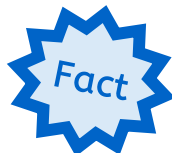
Engines should be warmed-up before driving - letting a car idle on a cold day is a good way to warm it up.



The best way to warm a vehicle is to drive it; easing into a drive and avoiding excessive engine revving is the best way to get a vehicle's heating system to deliver warmer air faster.



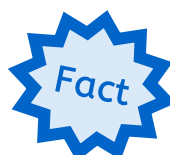
Idling is good for your engine.



Idling can make your engine dirtier. As fuel is not burnt fully when idling, it leaves a build-up of residues on cylinder walls that can damage the engine.



Frequent restarting of the engine is hard on a vehicle's engine and battery.



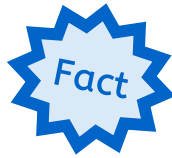
Increased restarting of a vehicle's engine does only minimal damage to the engine, while only very slightly draining the battery. Idling can also reduce the operating life of engine oil by 75%.

## More Facts and Myths on Idling

Use the facts below to help your school community to understand what is true and untrue about idling. Print them out and display them in your school. Share them in your newsletter, web page, social media, etc.



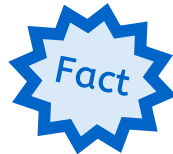
Idling doesn't cause that much harm.



Idling vehicles emit higher levels of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and hydrocarbons. These pollutants contribute to global warming and worsen air quality.



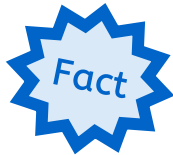
If it's cold outside I need to keep my engine running for it to stay warm.



Your engine will stay warm for 30-60 minutes after switching the engine off.



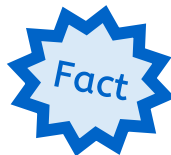
I need to keep my battery fully charged, so I have to keep the engine running.



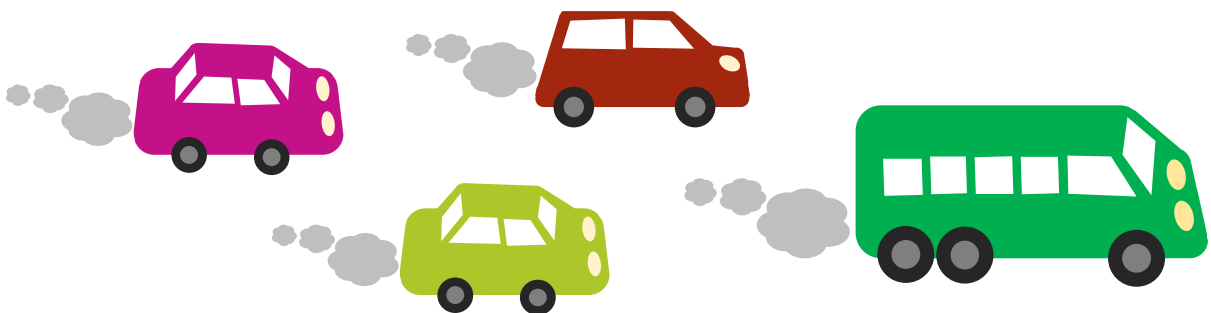
Modern car batteries need less engine running time to stay charged.



If I am parked on a yellow line with the engine running, I can't get fined.



Traffic wardens can fine you if you are parked somewhere you shouldn't be - whether your engine is running or not.



## Information to Parents

Below is a sample letter that can be sent or emailed home to parents. You could also use it in your school's newsletter. Feel free to copy and edit it to suit your own school.



[SCHOOL NAME]

[DATE]

SUBJECT: "No Idling!" campaign takes effect at [SCHOOL NAME]

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, [SCHOOL NAME] is taking part in the Green-Schools programme and are now working on the Travel theme.

As part of our work on promoting sustainable travel to and from school, we have decided to launch a "No Idling" campaign outside the school gates.

From [DATE], all vehicle owners are asked to turn their engines off whilst they wait to help improve air quality, reduce emissions and create a healthier environment around our school gates.

More information on idling is available on our website and our Green-Schools noticeboard.

By making this simple change, we can make a real difference and improve the quality of air we all breathe. Let's give it a go!

We would like to thank you for your continued support and we will keep you updated.

Kind Regards,

The Green-Schools Committee

[SCHOOL NAME]



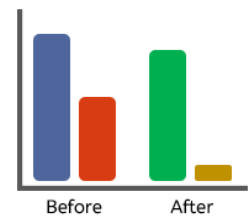


## Resources

Print out the following pages to use for your “No Idling” survey, pledges to give to parents & teachers and colouring pages

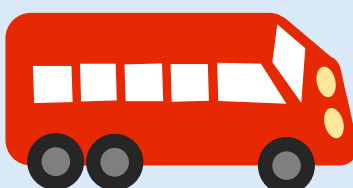
### “No Idling” survey

- Gather a team to conduct a “No Idling” survey
- Print out the “No Idling” survey sheet
- At pick-up times, go out to the school car park/pick-up area
- Tally the vehicles in the area and tally the vehicles that are idling
- Create graphs to display your results
- Raise awareness in your school community on idling
- Ask parents to sign the “No Idling” pledge
- Repeat the survey to see if your actions have made a difference!



### “No Idling” pledge

- Print out and photocopy the “No Idling” pledge sheet (there are 3 pledges to a page to cut)
- Send one home to each family in the school
- Gather them and count how many have pledged to be idle-free!
- Create graphs to display your results
- Publish your results on the school website, Facebook page, noticeboard, etc.





# Green-Schools Idling Survey



School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

*Tips on how to identify an idling vehicle:*



*The vehicle is still*





*Look for the vibration of the vehicle*



*Listen for the engine*



*Look and smell for exhaust fumes*

Vehicle type	 Buses	 All other vehicles
<b>Count</b> Place a ✓ for each one present		
<b>Are they idling?</b> Place a ✓ for each one that is		
<b>Total number of vehicles present</b>		
<b>Total that are idling</b>		





## No Idling Pledge

By signing this pledge, you are joining others in our school community to reduce emissions, improve air quality and help our school maintain our Green flag.

I hereby pledge to that I will turn off my engine anywhere I might be waiting in my vehicle.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*We recommended that you idle your vehicle for no longer than 10 seconds. More information is available on our Green-Schools notice board.*

Thank you for helping everyone breathe a little easier!  
One small change can make a big difference.



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# IDLING WORDSEARCH



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you find all the words  
in the word search?

*Words can be in any direction!*



L R I A F H Y F X F E G C S P  
I S X L E K D Y H C N D F N Y  
T K S A I S U O A K G U M O U  
W D L Q C M N R B R I A J I F  
O T F U E L A O P C N Z P T R  
H U Z M N Y S R I W E O Q U K  
E O J W V G E C T S E K C L S  
K X R W G H S O X A S Q C L E  
U X H R T G N I L D I I Q O M  
D W U A C L I M A T E L M P U  
J L E Q U H E F H D R D C M F  
E R D Z D S T V N O P F B N E  
B Q E C A Y T D A S W R U M W  
E U M G B B W M K R I J S C G  
E N V I R O N M E N T N T N H

AIR

CLIMATE

EXHAUST

IDLING

BREATHE

EMMISSIONS

FUEL

LUNGS

BUS

ENGINE

FUMES

POLLUTION

CAR

ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH

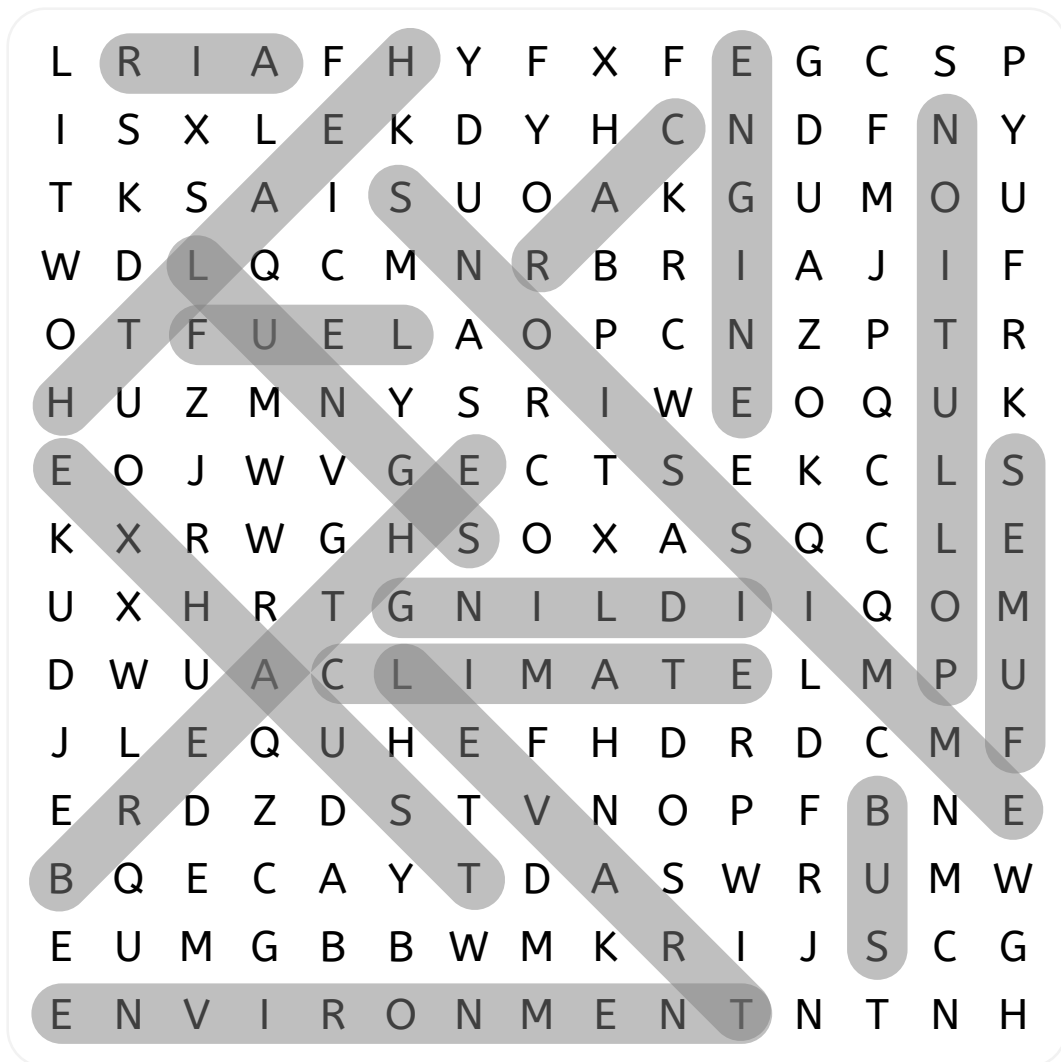
TRAVEL



# IDLING WORDSEARCH



## Solution



AIR

CLIMATE

EXHAUST

IDLING

BREATHE

EMMISSIONS

FUEL

LUNGS

BUS

ENGINE

FUMES

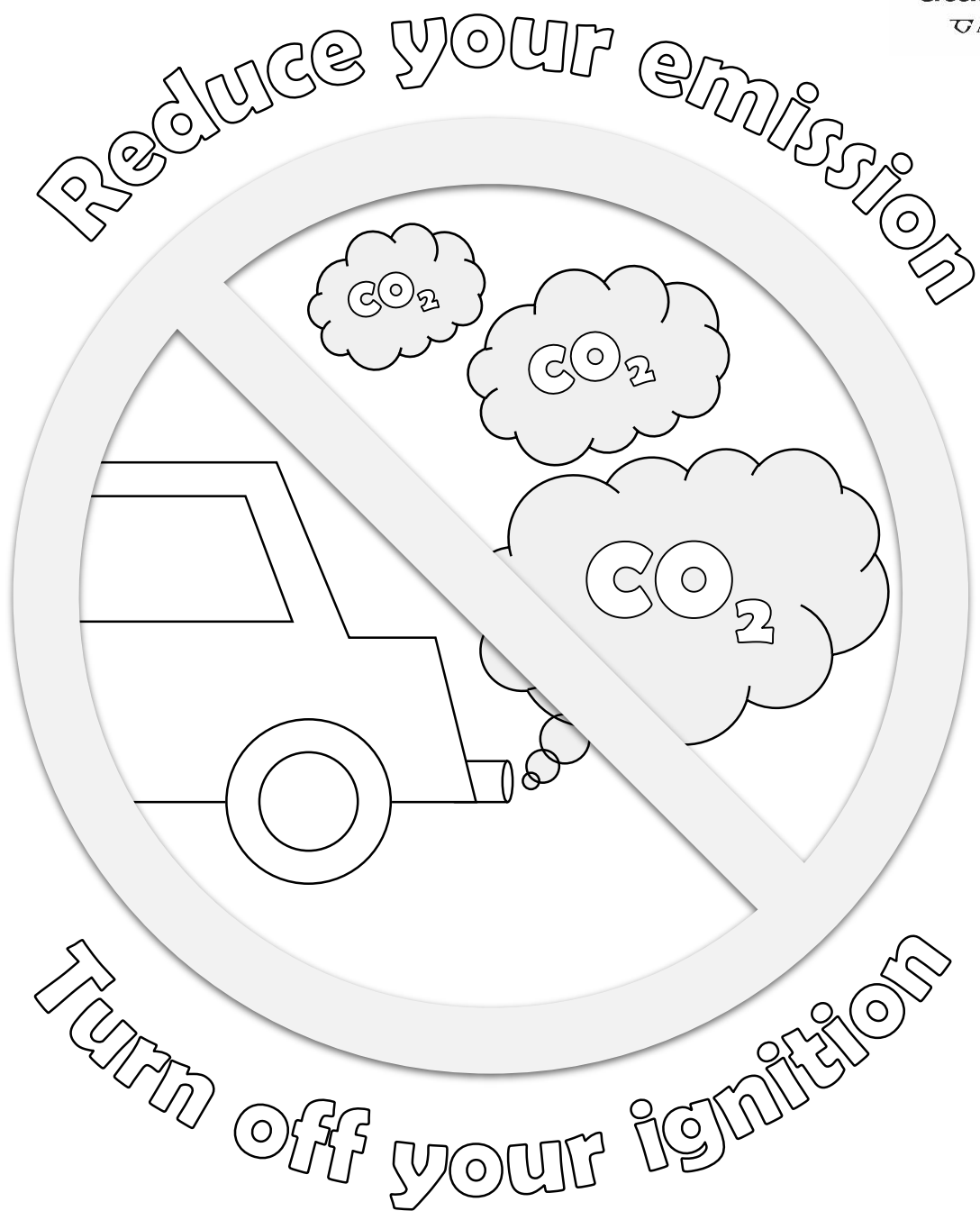
POLLUTION

CAR

ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH

TRAVEL



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Young lungs at work



Switch off your engine

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Care about your air



Switch off your engine

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# IDLING



Gets you nowhere

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_