



CAW!  
#CleanAirWeek



Saving fuel isn't all about money...reducing fuel consumption also reduces emissions! Below are some simple tips to save on fuel while driving.



## SWITCH OFF WHEN STATIONARY

**IDLING** is where an engine is left running unnecessarily while stationary. Excessive idling can lead to a significant waste of fuel and unnecessary increase in harmful pollutants (CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>) into the immediate environment.

According to the SEAI, cars typically burning **0.5-2 litres per hour** idling. Modern cars turn off the engine for you – don't override this.



## SLOW DOWN!

Wind resistance is the biggest user of fuel once you go above **60kph**. The faster you go the more fuel you use! The slower you go the more fuel you save and the safer it is for everyone.



## CHECK YOUR TYRE PRESSURE

If your tyres are under-inflated by 25% it could cost you **1.5% extra in fuel cost**. Using the most fuel-efficient tyres and keeping it properly inflated can save you 5% in fuel use and extend the life of the tyres.



## LOSE EXTRA WEIGHT

**Removing a roof rack** reduces wind resistance and can reduce fuel consumption by up to 5%.

**Emptying the boot** could save you money. Extra-weight increases fuel consumption. For example, according to the SEAI, 'adding a load of 60kg is estimated to increase fuel consumption by 2%'.



## ONLY USE WHAT YOU NEED

**Air-conditioning, heated windows, mirrors and seats** all use fuel for power. Reducing the use of these can save you fuel.

## THINK ABOUT...

- **Your journey** – do you need to drive? Could you walk, cycle, take the bus/train instead?
- **Cost** - Diesel & Petrol prices continue to rise steadily in Ireland. It makes sense to use it efficiently
- **Air pollution:** Older diesel vehicles are the largest single emission sources for NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter. Saving fuel reduces emissions and improves air quality
- **Health:** Air pollution is a contributory factor in approximately **1,410 premature deaths** per year in Ireland (WHO)
- **Environment:** NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter contribute to acid rain, and global climate change. Reducing fuel consumption reduces emissions

## LEARN MORE

The [SEAI Energy Academy](https://www.seai.ie/energy-academy) offers free online training courses in eco-driving. Find out how to save fuel by visiting the link.



## WHAT IS IDLING?

**IDLING** is where an engine is left running unnecessarily while stationary. This releases harmful pollutants (CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>) into the immediate environment and wastes fuel.

## WHY IS IT AN ISSUE?



Nitrogen dioxide is an air pollutant primarily associated with transport emissions.

This negatively effects basic health, as well as adding to the risk of heart and lung disease, and lowering life expectancy. The cost of idling is therefore not just financial but carries health costs too.

Idling is a significant issue in urban areas due to higher vehicle density and even more so around **schools where idling is prevalent** and buses and private vehicles are continuously observed to idle unnecessarily.

## IDLING SURVEY 2023

In mid-November 2023, Green-Schools Travel Officers completed idling surveys with participating schools nationwide. Preliminary results indicate that **31.8%** idled for >10minutes. One school recorded an idling time of **25 minutes**.



# 31.8%

Idled for >10minutes

Idling is not just isolated to private cars; bus idling is also a serious problem outside schools. For example, a school in Waterford observed that a school bus idled for **38minutes**.

## THINK ABOUT

According to the SEAI<sup>1</sup>, cars typically burning **0.5-2 litres per hour** idling.

### Let's work it out...

A car idling for 10minutes outside a school every day at drop off times throughout the school year.

Time	Primary 183 Days	Secondary 167 Days
10 min Idling	30.5 hours (1830 mins)	27.8 hours (1670 mins)

Taking the lower and upper levels of the range (l/hr) estimated to be burned while idling

Fuel burned/hr	Primary	Secondary
0.5 litres	15.25 litres	13.9 litres
2 litres	61 litres	55.6 litres

Taking the calculated volume of fuel burned while idling and matching them with fuel prices in October 2023<sup>2</sup>. Estimated costs for 10 minutes idling at drop off times are as follows:

Type	Fuel burned l/hr	Primary	Secondary
Petrol €1.83/l	0.5 l/hr	€27.9	€25.4
	2 l/hr	€111.6	€101.7
Diesel €1.84/l	0.5 l/hr	€28.1	€25.57
	2 l/hr	€112.2	€102.3

What about **pick up times**? How much could you save by 'switching off'?

## LEARN MORE

Visit [www.greenschoolsireland.org](http://www.greenschoolsireland.org) for more information on no-idling