



## OAKVILLE

Oakville School Community

Dear Oakville educator:

**Subject: Anti-Idling Education Campaign**

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Studies by Health Canada and community health departments and agencies have shown a direct link between contaminants in vehicle emissions and significant respiratory health effects. The Town of Oakville recognizes the seriousness of unnecessary vehicle idling and the negative health and environmental impacts that result. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution because they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per kilogram of body weight.

The Resource Kit that has been provided to you is intended to be used as the first step towards the launch of a campaign in each school. The following materials have been included in your kit:

- General suggestions for how to get started on a campaign
- A script for the school ambassadors who approach the drivers of vehicles
- A sample school newsletter insert
- An Idling Intervention Form for making contact with the drivers of vehicles
- An Idling Observation Record for observing idlers on school property
- A Pledge to be Idle-Free form
- A news article about the GTA Clean Air Partnership week-long education blitz
- Sample campaign materials
  - o A campaign poster and brochure set that encourages drivers to “Think Again...” about idling
  - o An information card with facts and tips about vehicle idling
  - o A window decal that can be presented to drivers for use in their vehicles window.

The materials provided in this Resource Kit are designed to guide each school in the organization and launch of their campaign. The intervention, observation and pledge forms are all available in electronic format for your convenience. The sample campaign materials are available from Town Hall.

Please utilize the materials provided in this Resource Kit. Should your school be interested in conducting a school campaign, please contact me to order your subsequent materials.

Thank you for your interest in this environmental initiative.

Sincerely,

*Trisha Henderson*

Trisha Henderson  
Environmental Policy Department  
Town of Oakville  
905-845-6601 ext. 3948



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## Background Sheet

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### Why do people idle?

Recent market research lists the following reasons for why people idle their vehicles:

- Warming up the car
- Listening to the radio
- Waiting for someone
- Parking illegally
- Doing on errand
- Convenience
- Personal comfort

### Health Concerns

Studies by Health Canada and community health departments and agencies have shown a direct link between contaminants in vehicle emissions and significant respiratory health effects. Health Canada estimates that more than 5000 Canadians die prematurely each year because of air pollution, and thousands more become unnecessarily ill. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution because they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per kilogram of body weight.

If every driver of a light-duty vehicle in Oakville avoided idling for just five minutes a day, collectively we could avoid wasting almost \$3.4 million worth of fuel annually.

You can **decrease unnecessary vehicle idling** by:

- Reducing 'warm-up' idling to 30 seconds
- Turning your engine off if parked for more than 10 seconds
- Avoiding use of a remote car starter

You can **improve the air quality** around your children's school by:

- Arranging car pools with neighboring families
- Walking, biking, or roller-blading with your child to and from school
- Helping to spread the word about the negative health effects of unnecessary vehicle idling to other parents in your school community

### Myths about Idling

*Myth #1:* The engine should be warmed up before driving

*Reality:* Idling is not an effective way to warm up a vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. No more than 30 seconds is needed.

*Myth #2:* Idling is good for your engine.

*Reality:* Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust systems.

*Myth #3:* Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than if you leave it running.

*Reality:* Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and starter motor. Component wear caused by re-starting the engine is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving, money that will likely be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling.

Truths and consequences about idling:

- It wastes fuel
- It wastes money
- It contributes to reduced quality of our air
- It contributes to global climate change
- It is harmful to your engine



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### Anti-Idling Campaign Suggestions

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**Start small – keep it simple.** Don't try to change the behaviour of every parent who drives. Plan for a 30 to 40 percent reduction in the number of idling vehicles, and you'll be off to a great start.

**Use your school's newsletter** to tell parents about the Anti-Idling Education Campaign Also send an information card home with students.

**Ask for commitment from drivers** to change their idling behaviour:

Ask parents to turn off their vehicle engines when waiting at school and that they make a personal commitment to reduce their idling time. Through your school's newsletter, inform parents of the dates that you will be requesting their commitment and that school ambassadors will be approaching them.

Over one week, using volunteers or a group of senior students (with teacher supervision), hand out information cards along with window stickers. Ask parents to display the sticker on their car window.

Keep track of the number of vehicles that have stickers, either by counting vehicles or by having volunteers complete a Pledge form for every sticker distributed.

**Create a "No-Idling Zone."** Schools may encourage students to make large banners or signs for display on fences and around the school where drivers congregate. Post the metal "Idle-Free Zone" signs to advise parents of Oakville's By-law.

**Monitor how well you're doing.** Determine a baseline measurement at the start of your project and periodically check results against the baseline.

Ask parent volunteers or senior students with teacher supervision to observe driver behaviour and complete an Observation Record. This can be done several times over a week (the best time is at the end of the school day, when most vehicle idling is likely to occur).

**Link vehicle idling to your school's curriculum.** Teachers can also help spread the word about reducing vehicle idling through classroom discussions and activities. The following table makes some suggested links to the curriculum in Ontario.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Strand</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
Math	Data Management and Probability	Grades 1 through 8
Science and Technology	Energy in Our Lives	Grade 1
	Air and Water in the Environment	Grade 2
	Conservation of Energy	Grade 5
	Interactions in Ecosystems	Grade 7
Arts	Creative Work	Grades 1 through 8
Language	Writing	Grades 1 through 8

Based on: Office of Energy Efficiency, Natural Resources Canada  
<http://oe.e.nrcan.gc.ca/communities-government/transportation/municipal-communities/schools.cfm?attr=0>



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## Anti-Idling Campaign Script

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**Introduce yourself** – be sure to include who you are representing

Introduce the anti-idling education campaign – be sure to include the key messages of the campaign:

- Remind drivers to turn off their engines while waiting for the health and safety of the children at the school.
- Emphasize the other benefits for turning off their engine, including the respect for the environment and money savings.

Advise that Oakville has an Anti-Idling By-law supported with public education.

Offer the Information card or brochure for the driver's reference and ask if they would be willing to display their commitment to stop idling by placing a decal in their window.

**Optional** Ask parents to sign their pledge to reduce idling on the supplied 'Pledge to be Idle-Free' form.

*Note:*

In your attempts to approach the drivers of vehicles you may be met with those who are unwilling or uninterested in hearing what you have to say. Your safety is of primary concern, should you feel threatened or uncomfortable at any time, remove yourself from the situation.

Tips to avoid a tense situation:

- Your approach to the driver should stem from a concern for the environment and school community – it is not directed towards individual drivers
- We are attempting to encourage participation and educate parents, not be critical of their behaviour
- Emphasize the health benefits for their children by making the conversation personal. You may have a warmer reception and be met with less resistance.
- Should the driver become agitated during the conversation, ask them to understand that you are simply trying to provide information and educate about the health of the children. Should the situation escalate, remove yourself.
- Emphasize that the campaign is simply educational to encourage drivers to abide by the by-law and to understand the benefits of anti-idling.
- Most Importantly: Remember to Smile! 😊



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**Sample of a Newsletter Insert**

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**Ready to do your part for cleaner air?**

Parents, if you drive your children to and from school, please turn off your engine while waiting.

Did you know that leaving your car engine running:

- Increases air pollution around the school
- Impacts children's health because they breathe more rapidly than adults
- Wastes your money – every day Canadians idle away \$1.8 million dollars of fuel
- Can harm your car – excessive idling fouls spark plugs and increases engine wear
- Creates unnecessary air pollution which contributes to smog and climate change

When you are waiting at the school for your children please **TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE!**



OAKVILLE

## Welcome Winter

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Have you ever had to wade through clouds of smelly exhaust in the school parking lot to get to your school bus? As most kids can tell you, it's not fun.

Consider the following:

- Vehicles left running while parked emit toxic smog-generating pollutants at twice the rate of vehicles in motion.
- Air quality is getting worse every year and the number of "smog days" is increasing.

Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution and 35-45% of parents idle their vehicles while waiting to pick up their children. Natural Resources Canada estimates that if every Canadian motorist avoided idling for just 5 minutes each day of the year, we could prevent more than 930 million tones of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year. That is equivalent to taking 385 cars off the road for an entire year!

**Fact:** Recent studies by Health Canada and community health departments and agencies have shown a direct link between contaminants in vehicle emissions and significant respiratory health effects. These studies have concluded that poor air quality and smog – caused in part by vehicle exhaust – are resulting in increased hospital admissions, respiratory illnesses and premature deaths, particularly in urban areas.

**Fact:** If every driver of a light-duty vehicle in Canada avoided idling for just five minutes per day, we would save 2.5 million liters of fuel, worth more than \$1.7 million (assuming fuel price of \$0.69).

**Fact:** Idling for more than 10 seconds costs more than turning off your engine.

**Fact:** Stopping unnecessary vehicle idling is one relatively easy way to contribute to improved air quality and respiratory health in our community.

The Town of Oakville has enacted a by-law to control idling vehicles and has launched an education program to encourage residents to stop unnecessary vehicle idling. Vehicle idling is one environmental and health threat that is easy to address. Anyone who drives a vehicle can become part of the solution and put a stop to unnecessary engine idling. All it takes is the turn of a key.

**IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU... TURN ON TO TURNING OFF!**



OAKVILLE

## Welcome Spring

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Have you ever had to wade through clouds of smelly exhaust in the school parking lot to get to your school bus? As most kids can tell you, it's not fun.

Consider the following:

- Vehicles left running while parked emit toxic smog-generating pollutants at twice the rate of vehicles in motion.
- Air quality is getting worse every year and the number of "smog days" is increasing.

Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution and 35-45% of parents idle their vehicles while waiting to pick up their children. Natural Resources Canada estimates that if every Canadian motorist avoided idling for just 5 minutes each day of the year, we could prevent more than 930 million tones of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year. That is equivalent to taking 385 cars off the road for an entire year!

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**IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU... TURN ON TO TURNING OFF!**



# OAKVILLE

## You Hold the Key – Pledge to be Idle-Free!

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### GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name of Monitor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Time at Site: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Weather Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEDGES:

	Name	Address	Phone # or Email	May we follow-up with you in the future?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				



# OAKVILLE

## Idling Intervention Form

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**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Name of Monitor:

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Name of Site:

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Time at Site:

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Date:

Weather Conditions:

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**RESULTS:**

	Did they take the information card Y or N	Did they take the decal Y or N	Did they affix the sticker immediately Y or N	Notes
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				



## *By-law 2002-153, A by-law to provide for the control of the idling of vehicles.*

*Passed on August 12, 2002*

### What is the purpose of the by-law?

- To protect human health from the contaminants in vehicle emissions.
- To protect the environment from exposure to vehicle emission contaminants.
- To reduce the amount of contaminants being released into our air from vehicle emissions.

### What are the contaminants in vehicle emissions and why are they harmful?

- Vehicles emit harmful contaminants such as nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxides and volatile organic compounds into the air when the engine is running
- Idling refers to the engine of a vehicle remaining on while the vehicle is not in motion, nor is the engine being used to run auxiliary functions that are necessary for the operation of the vehicle.
- 35-45% of parents idle their vehicles while waiting to pick up their children.
- Studies by Health Canada and community health departments and agencies have shown a direct link between contaminants in vehicle emissions and significant respiratory health effects; children are particularly vulnerable to the resulting air pollution.

### What authority does the Town have to regulate vehicular idling?

- The Town has municipal powers outlined in the *Municipal Act, 2001* to pass by-laws respecting health, safety, and well-being of persons, and to prohibit and regulate with respect to public nuisances, including matters that, in the opinion of council, are or could become or cause public nuisances.
- The Town's by-laws cannot conflict with or frustrate the purpose of provincial or federal law.

### For more information...

For information on the Anti-Idling By-law, including a copy of the by-law, information on what the Town is doing, what you can do, and idling facts, refer to the Town's website, or contact Trisha Henderson, Environmental Policy Coordinator:

- Website: <http://www.oakville.ca/environment/anti-idling.html>
- E-mail: [TLHenderson@oakville.ca](mailto:TLHenderson@oakville.ca)
- Telephone: 905-845-6601, ext. 3948



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE**

**BY-LAW NUMBER 2002-135**

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A by-law to provide for the control of the idling of vehicles.

WHEREAS Section 102 of the *Municipal Act* authorizes a municipal council to pass a by-law and to make regulations for the health, safety, morality and welfare of the inhabitants of the municipality in matters not specifically provided for in the Act;

AND WHEREAS vehicles are sources of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxides and volatile organic compounds in the Town of Oakville's outdoor air;

AND WHEREAS the levels of air pollution in the Town of Oakville are associated with adverse health effects, including deleterious effects on respiratory health;

**COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. DEFINITIONS

- (1) IDLE - means the operation of the engine of a vehicle while the vehicle is not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the basic function of the vehicle and "idling" has a corresponding meaning;
- (2) LAYOVER - means stopping at a point along a transit route for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes to allow a transit vehicle to adjust to service schedules;
- (3) MOBILE WORKSHOP - means:
  - (a) a vehicle containing equipment that must be operated inside or in association with the vehicle; or
  - (b) a vehicle serving as a facility for taking measurements or making observations or conducting maintenance or construction operated by or on behalf of a municipality, public utility or police, fire or ambulance service.
- (4) STOPOVER - means a scheduled delay of a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes at a transit vehicle terminal to allow transit vehicles to adjust services schedules;

- (5) TRANSIT VEHICLE - means Oakville Transit vehicles, GO Transit vehicles, paratransit vehicles, tour buses and motor coaches;
- (6) VEHICLE - means a motor vehicle, trailer, traction engine, farm tractor, or road building machine as defined in the *Highway Traffic Act*, and any vehicle drawn, propelled or driven by any kind of non-muscular power but does not include cars or electric or diesel electric railways running exclusively upon rails.

## 2. PROHIBITIONS

- (1) No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to idle for more than five (5) consecutive minutes.
- (2) Section 2(1) does not apply to:
  - (a) police, fire or ambulance vehicles while engaged in operational activities, including training activities, except where the idling is substantially for the convenience of the operator of the vehicle;
  - (b) vehicles assisting in an emergency activity;
  - (c) mobile workshops while they are in the course of being used for their basic function;
  - (d) vehicles where the idling is required as part of a repair process or to prepare a vehicle for servicing;
  - (e) armoured vehicles where a person remains inside the vehicle while guarding the contents of the vehicle or while the vehicle is being loaded or unloaded;
  - (f) vehicles that remain motionless because of an emergency, traffic or weather conditions or mechanical difficulties over which the driver has no control;
  - (g) vehicles engaged in a parade or race or any other such event authorized by Council;
  - (h) transit and passenger vehicles while passengers are embarking or disembarking en route or at terminals;
  - (i) transit vehicles while at a layover or stopover location, except where the idling is substantially for the convenience of the operator of the vehicle;
  - (j) vehicles transporting a person where a medical doctor certifies in writing that for medical reasons, the person requires the temperature or humidity to be maintained within a certain range and the idling of the vehicle is necessary to achieve that temperature or humidity level;

- (k) vehicles when the ambient outside temperature is more than 27 degrees Celsius (27°C) or less than five degrees Celsius (5°C) and the idling of the vehicle is necessary to the operation of air conditioning or heating equipment respectively.

3. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- (1) This by-law shall be administered and enforced by the By-law Enforcement Section of the Town of Oakville.
- (2) Any person who contravenes any provision of this by-law is, upon conviction, guilty of an offence and is liable to any penalty as provided in the *Provincial Offences Act*.
- (3) The court in which a conviction has been entered and any other court of competent jurisdiction thereafter, may make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the person convicted and such order shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed on the person convicted.

4. SHORT TITLE

This by-law may be cited as the “Anti-Idling By-law”.

PASSED by the Council this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002.

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MAYOR

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CLERK

# Idling gets you nowhere



# Turn your engine OFF

Every litre of fuel used produces over two kilograms of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.



[www.halton.ca/hpca](http://www.halton.ca/hpca)

Idling gets you nowhere



Turn your engine OFF

## **Protect our environment**

Every litre of fuel used produces over two kilograms of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

## **Protect your health**

Clusters of idling vehicles, especially diesel vehicles, emit unhealthy fumes both inside and outside the vehicle.

## **Save your money**

Ten minutes of idling wastes between 300 ml and 500 ml (one to two cups) of fuel in a three to five litre engine.

## **Conserve our resources**

Gasoline and diesel are derived from fossil fuels, a non renewable resource.

## **Save your engine**

Excessive idling can damage engine components.



**[www.halton.ca/hpca](http://www.halton.ca/hpca)**

Designed by the City of Burlington

 Contains 100% post consumer fibre. Nov. 2008

