

EnACT Stall News

Second Issue: Trash and Idling

Idling Gets Us Nowhere

Idling hurts our health, our air, and our wallets:

Tailpipes of cars that are idling spew out the same pollutants as those from moving cars. These pollutants are linked to asthma, heart disease, chronic bronchitis, and cancer. Elderly, children, and those with asthma are most affected by these pollutants.

Idling is contributing to global warming, as idling vehicles emit carbon dioxide. In NYC alone, **130,000 tons of carbon dioxide are produced each year** from idling cars and trucks.

According to the Environmental Defense Fund, **“to offset this amount of global warming pollution, we would need to plant an area the size of Manhattan with trees every single year.”**

Idling also hurts our wallets. A car that idles for an hour will use between 20% and 70% of a gallon of fuel. An idling truck will use about a gallon of fuel in one hour.

<http://www.edf.org/transportation/reports/idling>

Pollution Solution

Research has shown that idling is turning schools into air pollution hot spots. In Portland, Oregon, one parent spoke out on the issue of the toxic exhaust coming from the running engines of the parents gathered outside at the end of the school day.

Referencing the students, parent Lynne Dee Bricker noted, **“They’re a captive audience.** And so they can’t go anywhere else. They can’t get away from it.”

Oregon and Washington have both passed laws that fix the problem of bus exhaust at schools (the buses have been replaced or retrofitted). A study in Washington showed that after a school district fixed its buses, **there were 30% fewer visits to the hospital for asthma and bronchitis.**

<http://www.katu.com/news/problemsolver/Idling-your-car-can-hurt-your-kids-242773781.html>

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=8910>

CVU Idling Study

EnACT collected idling data from 2:30-3:15 for four days in the week of October 20th. As winter rolls in, please make sure that your parents roll out without too much idling.

Thank you!

The following data was found during this idling study:

Percent of vehicles that idled: 55%

Average idle time per vehicle: about 4 minutes

Amount of Gas Wasted (in total): 2.56 gallons

Total Amount of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted: 2,360.23 grams of CO₂

Don’t Trash Our Future

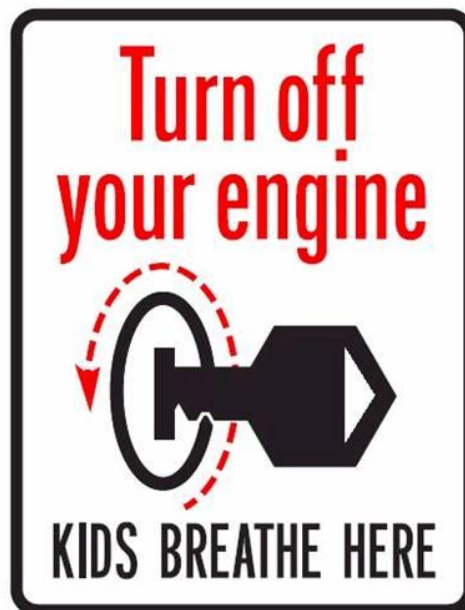
The average American throws away **4.4 pounds of trash each day**, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. This is nearly double the 1960 average of 2.7 pounds of trash per day. If you were to add up all the garbage America produces, you could form a line of filled up garbage trucks and reach the moon.

Save the Turtles

Trash has become a massive problem in our oceans. In the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (in the Pacific Ocean) for every 2.2 pounds of plankton, there are 13.2 pounds of plastic. Some of it is being ingested by marine life. “Whales and sea turtles often mistake plastic bags for squid, and birds often mistake plastic pellets for fish eggs”. **By ingesting trash the animal might starve, become malnourished, or even die.** A study done by looking at **38 turtles found that 61% had eaten some form of trash**. Marine animals are also being hurt by getting tangled in trash. This can result in “suffocation, starvation, or drowning” according to the EPA. It is inevitable that an animal will suffer in some way after digesting trash or even just by getting tangled up. Eighty percent of the trash in the sea originates from landfills and other urban sources. **By making sure we recycle and throw away our waste, we could save so many marine lives.**

http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/marinedebris/md_impacts.cfm

<http://www.seeturtles.org/ocean-plastic/>



**IT’S VT LAW:
You can’t idle
at CVU.**

QUICK FACTS:

-According to National Geographic, 27,000 trees are felled each day for toilet paper worldwide.

-According to the Environmental Defense Fund, any more than 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than is required to restart the engine.

-Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial fleet of airplanes every 3 months, according to Solar Energy World.

-Everyday in the United States, we produce enough trash to equal the weight of the Empire State Building.

-14 billion pounds of trash is dumped into the ocean every year.