

MSMS Team Summit Green Team Supports Idle-Free Vermont Initiative

Did you know that Governor Shumlin signed a Vermont State Law, effective May 2014, that restricts idling of all motor vehicles in public spaces?



MSMS is supporting this vehicle idling reduction effort at school. We are doing this to reduce our exposure to toxic gasses created by the burning of fossil fuels from idling cars.

Vehicle exhaust contains many chemicals that can negatively impact our health. Children and young adults are especially vulnerable to respiratory illnesses, such as asthma, caused by this pollution.

CO₂ emissions from vehicle exhaust also contribute to climate change.

From October 19th through October 23rd, we collected data on the amount of time parents idled their cars while waiting to pick up their kids at the end of school.

We found that:

- 58% of the cars waiting for students were idling for longer than 30 seconds.
- In fact, the average car idled for 5 minutes and 23 seconds.
- With this average, the amount of fuel consumed is about 1/2 gallon of fuel per day. This would add up to 75.9 gallons of fuel per school year and \$154 wasted on cars going nowhere.
- In addition, this amount of idling contributes 1,517 pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

What can you do?

Turn **OFF** the car engine while waiting to pick up your student.

- Just 10 seconds of idling wastes more fuel than shutting off and restarting the engine.
- Idling cars waste fuel and money that could be better spent elsewhere.
- The package delivery company, UPS, practices a no idling policy by shutting off and restarting their engines all day long to save money and excessive CO₂ emissions. *If they can do it, how about you?*

Soon, “No Idling” signs will be posted in front of the school. Please help us get the word out to families that idling cars are bad for our health and for our environment.

Team Summit Green Team Thanks You!