



EVERY SECOND COUNTS.

ANTI-IDLING TOOLKIT GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS

Aurora.ca/IdleFreeAurora



INTRODUCTION

Why we shouldn't sit idle.

Most people idle for convenience and comfort. We idle during drop-offs and pick-ups, running errands, sitting in drive-thrus, warming up or cooling down the car, waiting at railway crossings and when parking where we shouldn't.

Second after second and minute after minute this time begins to really add up, and while most people don't mean to be wasteful, if all Canadian drivers avoided unnecessary idling for just three minutes a day, we would save a combined \$630 million per year. This is the equivalent of taking 320,000 cars off of the road for the entire year. Your actions can make a difference, not only for the environment but for your health, intelligence and pocketbook, too!

About this toolkit

This Resource Kit is designed to guide schools in the organization and launch of your own anti-idling campaign. In this document, you will find lots of creative ideas and curriculum connections for taking action in your school to help reduce vehicle idling. In the accompanying "Printable Resources" folder, you will find printable tools to support your efforts.



THE FACTS

Aurora's Anti-Idling Policy

In support of Aurora's commitment to the health and safety of its residents and businesses, Aurora passed an anti-idling policy in fall 2020. This means motorists in Aurora must turn their cars off after five consecutive minutes but are encouraged to turn off after 30 seconds.

The policy makes exceptions for extreme weather conditions, as well as mobile workshops where the vehicle motor powers work-related equipment.

Non-compliance of the Anti-Idling Policy may lead to penalties, at the discretion of the Town's By-law Officer.

The Town's Anti-Idling Policy can be found :
[Aurora.ca/idlefreeaurora](https://www.aurora.ca/idlefreeaurora)



Idling facts.

IDLING FOR MORE THAN 10 SECONDS WASTES MORE FUEL THAN RESTARTING.

Due to changes in vehicle technology, letting a vehicle idle for more than 10 seconds burns more fuel and emits more CO₂ than restarting.

IDLING CONTRIBUTES TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Idling contributes strongly to Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) as running vehicles releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the air - a number one contributing pollutant to climate change.

According to Natural Resources Canada, transportation in general is responsible for 27% of GHG emissions. GHG emissions from personal vehicles account for 37% of the Aurora's total emissions, much higher than the Canadian average. As GHG emission levels rises, our environment changes too.

IDLING EMITS DANGEROUS POLLUTANTS.

Idling creates a hot spot of dangerous pollutants for everyone near your idling car, including you. These emissions include nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and particulate matter. Breathing these pollutants is linked to increases in asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease, and cancer. Children are especially vulnerable because they inhale more air per pound of body weight.

IDLING IS HARD ON YOUR VEHICLE.

Over time idling can damage your engine's components, including spark plugs, cylinders and exhaust systems. Because your vehicle's engine is not operating at its peak temperature when idling, fuel is only partially combusted, leading to a fuel residue buildup on cylinder walls.

IDLING IS NOT A GOOD WAY TO WARM UP YOUR CAR.

No one likes to get into a freezing cold car, but the best way to warm up your car is not to leave it idling in the driveway, but instead to drive it. Your vehicle needs less than a minute- even in the dead of winter- before it's road ready. Remember, every second counts.



LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN

Schools are a great place to raise awareness about the dangers of idling. Doing so will help make them healthier places for students, teachers and staff. Individual students, teachers, classroom, school, or school administration can lead an anti-idling campaign. Idling is also a great issue for school environmental clubs or committees.

Getting started

Here are some basic steps for organizing a successful campaign: Read on for more details on implementing each one!

- 1 RECRUIT CAMPAIGN LEADERS AND AMBASSADORS**
- 2 COLLECT BASELINE DATA & SET YOUR IDLING REDUCTION GOAL**
- 3 CREATE AN ACTION PLAN**
- 4 MONITOR AND EVALUATE**
- 5 SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES**

STEP-BY-STEP CAMPAIGN PROCESS

1 RECRUIT CAMPAIGN LEADERS AND AMBASSADORS

- Form an Aurora Eco-Warrior Committee in your class or school. The committee will be responsible for implementing the campaign and be eco-warriors for the school.
- Announce your anti-idling challenge to your school. Send out a newsletter to parents, guardians, staff and students with information on what that means.
- Make an announcement to recruit other students or classes for the committee. (Be sure to promote the benefits of the committee!)
- Reach out to staff to see who would like to help run the committee.

2 COLLECT YOUR BASLINE DATA & SET YOUR IDLING REDUCTION GOAL

- Your Aurora Eco-Warrior Committee or other helpers in the school will set up a schedule to observe idling. Most idling will occur before school, at lunch and after school.
- Elementary schools may be observing busses while high schools will likely focus on individual vehicles.
- Analyze and collect baseline data. Set a SMART Goal.
- Use the Observation Form to find baseline data (in the toolkit).
NOTE: Do not approach anyone about their idling at this point.
- Created an online survey to score the level of anti-idling knowledge at the start of your campaign, then again after.
- Analyze data and set goal to reduce idling over a specific time frame.

3

CREATE AN ACTION PLAN

After setting your reduction goal, you'll need to develop your action plan! Spreading the word and educating staff, students and parents will play a huge part. There are lots of different ways to communicate and the toolkit provides templates to get you started, including draft emails/letters, pledge cards, brochures etc. There are also many ways to link anti-idling and climate change education to the curriculum, which is outlined in the toolkit.

4

MONITOR AND EVALUATE

At the end of your campaign, you'll want to revisit the Idling Observation Sheet you used to collect your baseline data. Using the same sheet and instructions monitor and evaluate idling once again and then calculate to see if idling has been reduced. Do another online survey on facts about anti-idling. See if there is any improvement in the score.

5

SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES (& CHALLENGES)

Share your results with other classes, the school administration, school board or the local media. Town of Aurora would also love to hear about it!