Citizens and businesses across Idaho and the nation are struggling with high fuel prices. At the same time, many areas are experiencing poor air quality. Vehicle emissions contribute significantly to air pollution.

One easy way we can all save fuel and money and help protect air quality is by turning off our vehicle engines instead of idling.

Does your business have a vehicle fleet? Do drivers regularly let their engines idle for several minutes to warm up first thing in the morning? Do they leave vehicles running while loading or unloading or while conducting business?

Does your business have a drop-off zone, drive-through window, or parking lot? If so, do customers frequently idle for 10 or more seconds on your property?

Many businesses fit into one or both of these categories and may not have considered the economic and environmental impacts of idling vehicles. When a car or truck is left running while it's parked or sitting still, fuel and money are wasted while the engine produces air pollution. This pollution contributes to poor air quality and global climate change, as well as being harmful to health.

Vehicle idling is a bad habit. This brochure explains why and how your business can save fuel and money and protect air quality by breaking this habit and encouraging your customers to go idle-free as well.

For More Information

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

State Office
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502
Pollution Prevention Program
(208) 373-0146

Regional Offices

Boise
1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

Lewiston
1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

Coeur d'Alene
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

Pocatello
444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

Idaho Falls
900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

Twin Falls
1363 Fillmore Street
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

DEQ Web Resources

Vehicle Emissions and Air Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/vehicle-emissions

Clean Air Zone Idaho for Schools
www.deq.idaho.gov/clean-air-zone-schools

Printed on recycled paper, DEQ May 2012. PID 0205, CA 30060. Costs associated with this publication are available from the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code.

High fuel prices got you down?

How your business can save fuel and money and protect air quality

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov

Why is vehicle idling a problem?

- **It wastes fuel.**
  Idling for 10 seconds or more uses more fuel than restarting your engine. Idling for 10 minutes a day wastes an average of 26 gallons of gas per vehicle per year.

  People sometimes think vehicles should idle for several minutes before being driven. This is not true. Modern engines do not need more than a few seconds of idling time, even in cold weather, before they can be safely driven. In fact, the best way to warm up a car is to drive it, since that warms up the catalytic converter and other mechanical parts of the car, in addition to the engine.
- **It wastes money.**
  If fuel costs $4 a gallon, idling for 10 minutes a day costs $104 per vehicle per year.
- **It pollutes the air.**
  Vehicles emit many pollutants into the air. Compared to the smokestack image many people associate with air pollution, emissions from an individual car may seem insignificant. Emissions from many vehicles on the road or idling in a waiting area add up, however, and can have a serious impact on air quality.
- **It's harmful to our health.**
  Breathing elevated levels of air pollutants can adversely affect human health, especially in sensitive populations such as children, the elderly, and people with certain health conditions such as asthma.
- **It can damage your vehicle's engine,**
  including the cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust system. Idling an engine forces it to operate in a very inefficient and gasoline-rich mode that, over time, can degrade the engine's performance and reduce mileage.

An idling engine gets the worst possible gas mileage - zero miles per gallon.

What is the Clean Air Zone Idaho program?

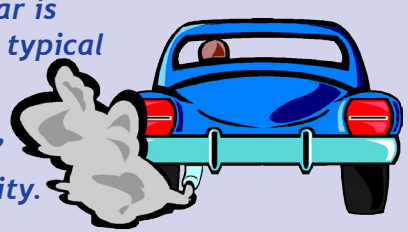
To encourage Idahoans to turn off their engines instead of idling, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) initiated the ***Clean Air Zone Idaho*** program. The program began in 2004 with a campaign aimed at encouraging school bus drivers and others not to idle on school grounds. To date, nearly 300 Idaho schools and child care facilities have voluntarily joined the program.

In 2006, the program expanded to discourage vehicle idling at community facilities where idling is common, such as airports, libraries, parks, sports areas, and universities. To date, more than 30 Idaho communities have joined the program.

Recent efforts have focused on encouraging businesses to join the ***Clean Air Zone Idaho*** program. Businesses with delivery vans or truck fleets are great candidates for participation in the program, as are businesses with loading docks or drive-through lanes or parking lots where vendors or customers often sit and idle.

Participation in the ***Clean Air Zone Idaho*** program is voluntary and free. Participants receive free resources and recognition. It's easy to join. Simply contact DEQ's state office or a regional office. (See back for contact information.)

Driving a car is probably a typical citizen's most "polluting" daily activity.



How to participate in Clean Air Zone Idaho

- Adopt a **no-idling policy** for your business and direct fleet drivers to turn off their engines while loading and unloading and parked. DEQ can provide you with suggested text and an easy-to-implement communications plan.
- **Calculate how much you are spending on gas** now and continue to track over the next several months. Then show your drivers how much fuel costs have decreased as a result of curbing idling. Consider establishing an employee rewards program with the savings.
- Establish a **clean air zone** around your facility where idling is discouraged or not allowed.
- Post **"Turn off your engine" signs** in clean air zones to remind customers and vendors not to idle vehicles. DEQ can provide you with bright outdoor metal signs that will capture drivers' attention and clean air zone stickers for drive-through windows.

- **Publicize your participation** in the program as part of ongoing company advertising.
- Consider purchasing **fuel-efficient** and **hybrid vehicles** for your fleet.
- Work with other businesses to **encourage them to create no-idle zones** at delivery areas, drop-off zones, and drive-through windows with typical wait times of over 10 seconds.
- Contact DEQ to **join the program today**!