



Clean Air Zone

Sample newsletter articles

Sample 1

[School Name] is a Clean Air Zone

Notice the new signs out front? Our school has joined *Clean Air Zone Idaho*, a program to help protect the health of our children by limiting exposure to vehicle exhaust emissions. Parents and guardians are asked to participate by turning off vehicle engines when picking up or dropping off students.

Why did we join?

Running vehicles emit many air pollutants including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and fine particulate matter. Air pollution contributes to asthma, the most common long-term childhood disease, affecting approximately 10% of Idaho's children. By turning off engines from cars and buses, we reduce our children's exposure to these emissions.

What can you do?

- ✓ Support our Clean Air Zone by turning off your engine while dropping off or picking up students.
- ✓ Carpool to limit the number of vehicles on the road.
- ✓ Encourage students to walk or bike to school.

Sample 2

[School Name] is a Clean Air Zone

Myths and facts about idling vehicles.

Myth: The engine should be warmed up before driving.

Reality: Idling is not an effective way to warm up your vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way is to drive the vehicle. With today's modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving away.

Myth: Idling is good for your engine.

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

Myth: Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than leaving it running.

Reality: Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components such as the battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by restarting 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. The bottom line is that over 30 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

Help our school "get into the zone" with the *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program. Please turn off engines when dropping off or picking up students.