

Wayside, NJ



Watchung, NJ



Millburn, NJ



Bloomsbury, NJ



# ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT ACTION

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS - 10 points



# Vehicle Idling – Overview:

- ❖ A motor vehicle is idling when the engine is turned on, but the vehicle is not in motion.
- ❖ A great deal of idling occurs at schools, where buses & cars line up to drop off and pick up children.
- ❖ Unnecessary vehicle idling is a simple way to contribute to improved air quality around schools.
- ❖ New Jersey has had a no-idling regulation for diesel-fueled commercial vehicles since 1985.
- ❖ This law was updated in 2007 to no motor vehicle (diesel or gasoline fueled) may have its engine running if motionless for more than 3 consecutive minutes.
- ❖ Despite these restrictions, idling continues to occur during arrival and dismissal times at schools throughout New Jersey.



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# Effects of Vehicle Idling:

Idling can lead to the following negative impacts:

## ❖ Environmental Damage

- ❖ Vehicle idling creates unnecessary pollution.
- ❖ Car exhaust can have a negative impact on plants and animals living in high traffic areas.

## ❖ Health Effects

- ❖ Prolonged exposure to diesel emissions can cause asthma and trigger asthma in utero.
- ❖ Diesel exhaust is a source of fine particulate pollution which can cause or exacerbate a variety of heart and lung ailments.
- ❖ Long-term exposure to combustion-related air pollution can lead to cardiopulmonary and lung cancer mortality.
- ❖ Parts of diesel exhaust have been shown to cause cancer.



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## Effects of Vehicle Idling (continued):

Idling can lead to the following negative impacts (continued):

- ❖ Extra Expenses/Costs
  - ❖ Idling wastes gas and money.
  - ❖ Vehicle-Idling leads to more inefficient use of fuel than turning the vehicle off and restarting.
  - ❖ Idling causes wear and tear on engine parts.



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# Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement

## Importance:

- ❖ Children are more vulnerable to the impacts of vehicle pollution than other populations.
- ❖ Children are more susceptible to air pollution as their lungs are still developing.
- ❖ Children breathe about 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults (Children are lower to the ground, therefore closer to tailpipes).
- ❖ Diesel emissions exacerbate asthma which is the most common chronic illness in children and the leading cause of school absences.



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# Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Action:

- ❖ Provides guidance for tackling idling issues on school grounds.
  - ❖ Helps reduce the harmful effects of air pollution on children's developing lungs, making it easier to learn, play, and breathe at school.
- In order to earn points at the **school district level**, district must adopt an Anti-Idling Resolution and complete at least TWO initiatives aimed at reducing student exposure to vehicle emissions.
- In order to earn point at the **individual school level**, school must identify and document the current idling situation at the school and implement at least THREE strategies to address the documented concerns.



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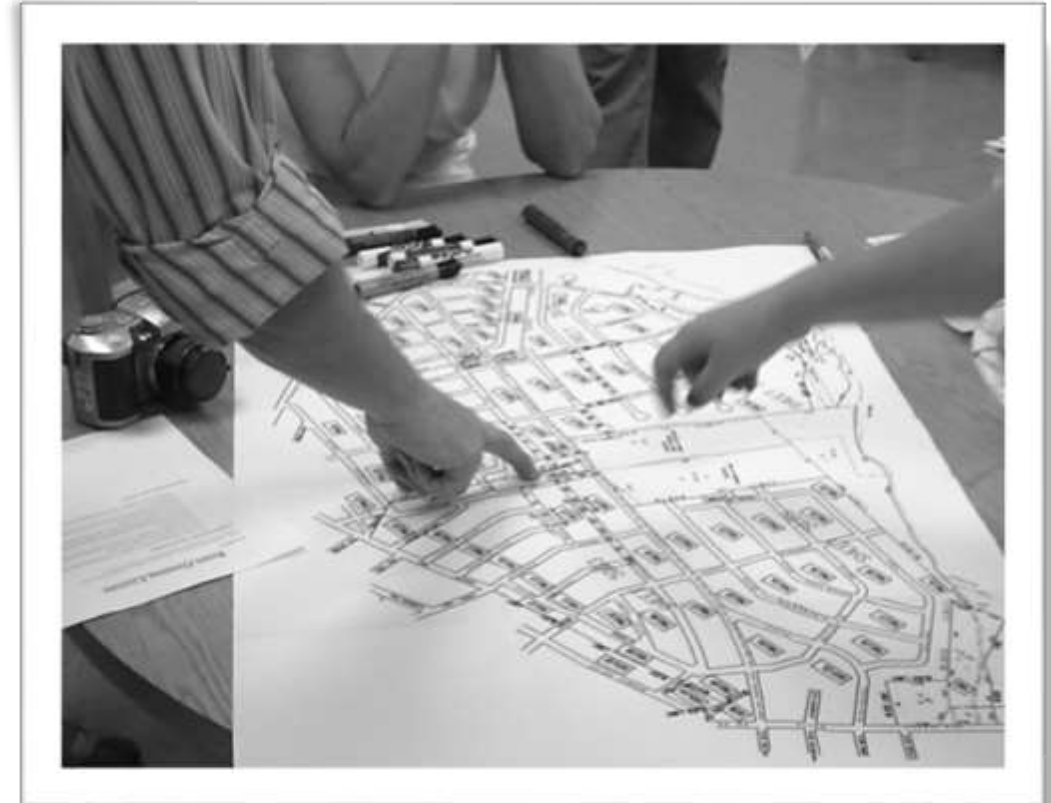




# Leadership and Involvement

## Leaders:

- ❖ Board of Education member
- ❖ Administrator
- ❖ Teacher
- ❖ School Nurse
- ❖ Parent



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# Leadership and Involvement

## Team Members:

- ❖ Board of Education
- ❖ School Administrators – principal, superintendent
- ❖ Teachers
- ❖ School Staff (i.e. transportation coordinators)
- ❖ Parents
- ❖ Students
- ❖ Members of the municipal green team
- ❖ Local police



**Note\*\*** Be sure to contact your [Safe Routes to School Regional Coordinator](#) from your local Transportation Management Association (TMA) as a free resource to contribute to the collaborative effort



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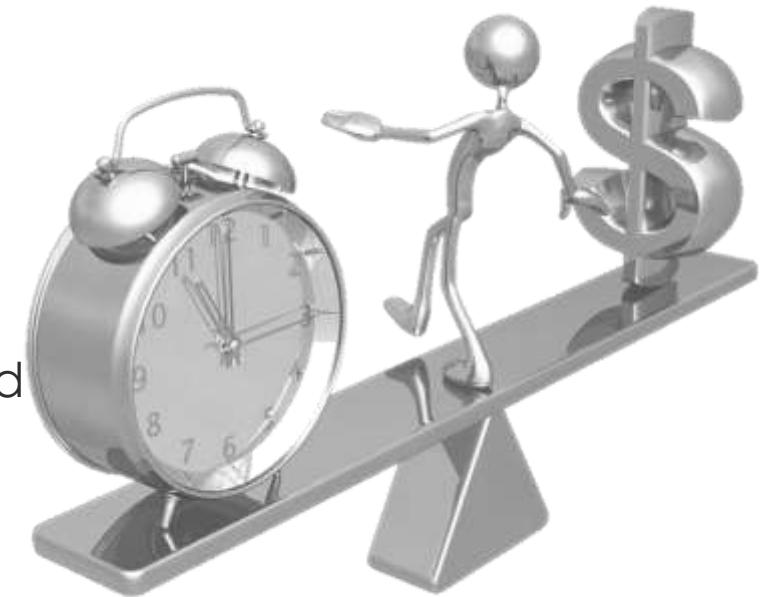






## Timeframe:

- ❖ 3 - 12 months to adopt a resolution and implement two actions (depending upon if the Board of Education has a champion to lead the initiatives)
- ❖ 1 - 2 meetings for discussion and adoption of the resolution (depending on the level of support from the School Board)
- ❖ 3 - 12 months for Implementation of the strategies (depending on which strategies are performed)
- ❖ 3 – 6 months to complete the steps for schools to organize and implement anti-idling education and enforcement.



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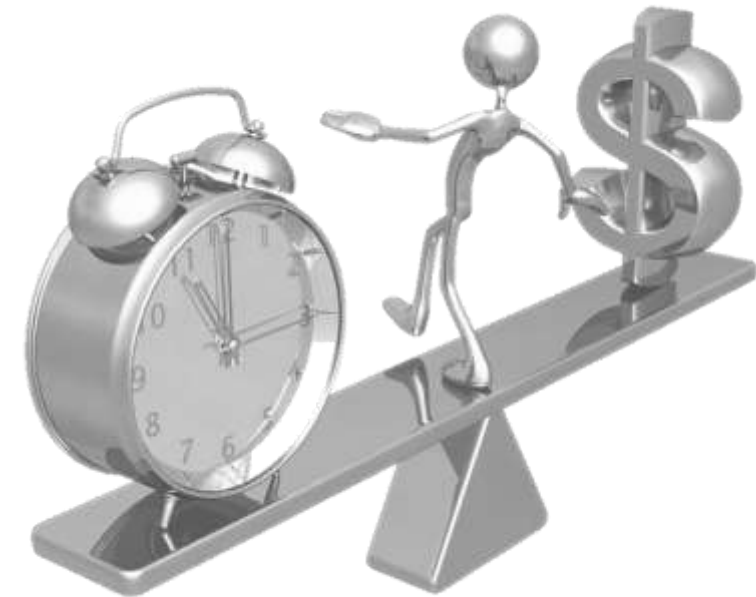




## Timeframe – continued:

The following tasks could be completed simultaneously:

- ❖ Data Collection: 1 month (approximately)
  - ❖ Estimate and record the idling situation at the school.
- ❖ Awareness: 1 – 3 months (approximately)
  - ❖ Propose and adopt a school district-wide Anti-Idling Resolution.
  - ❖ Educate students and the community through flyers, letters, newsletters, meetings and/or emails about anti-idling.
- ❖ Implementation: approximately 2 months
  - ❖ Post signs at student pick-up and drop-off locations at school(s).
  - ❖ Collect no-idling pledge cards from parents and bus drivers.
  - ❖ Work with the local police to enforce the no-idling law.



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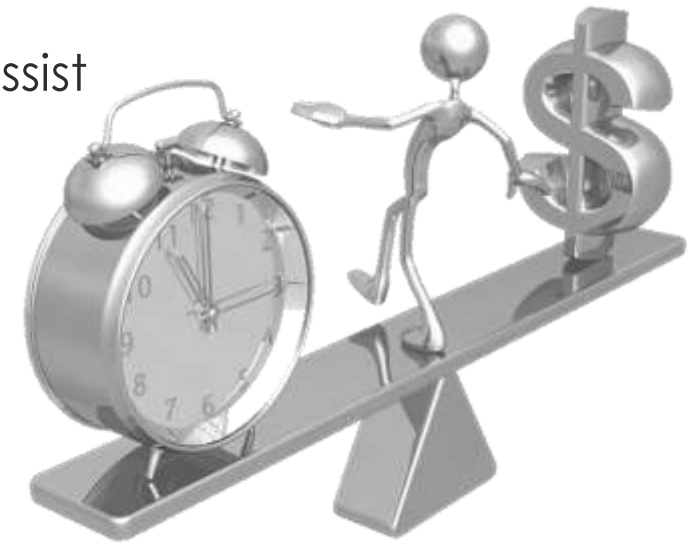


[www.saferoutesnj.org](http://www.saferoutesnj.org)



# Cost and Resource Needs:

- ❖ Printing and installation of signs
- ❖ Minimal staff time to foster and promote the program
- ❖ The Safe Routes to School Regional Coordinator from the local Transportation Management Association (TMA) may be able to assist with programs and provide signs at low or no cost.



**Note\*\***For a map of the TMA service areas visit [TMA's website](#). Or visit the New Jersey Safe Routes to [School Resource Center](#) to identify the Regional Coordinators.



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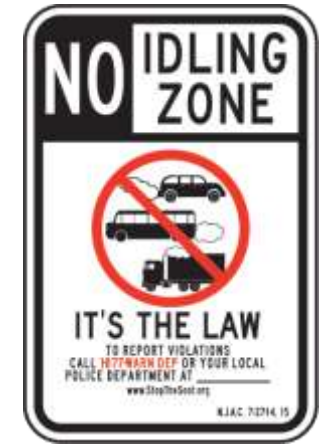




# Implementation of the Anti Idling Action - District level:

If a *school district* is completing the action:

1. Adopt a School District Anti-Idling Resolution. To receive credit for this action, the resolution must:
  1. Reflect intent to reduce all motor vehicle idling, not just buses and school related vehicles.
  2. Encourage all vehicle operators to turn off their engines after ten seconds.



**Note\*\*** The "Idle Free New Jersey" Program by Clean Water Action has developed a model "[No-Idling Resolution](#)"





# Implementation of Anti Idling Action – District Level (cont.):

If a ***school district*** is completing the action (cont.):

2. Complete at least TWO of the following initiatives:
  - a. Distribute educational materials to the entire school district community. Clean Water Action has compiled materials including posters, brochures, and signs from various sources on [their website](#) for free downloads.
  - b. Collaborate with local police to develop and implement an enforcement plan. Repeat offenders should be ticketed and fined. Tickets can be found on the [NJDEP's website](#).
  - c. Incorporate anti-idling education into the district's curriculum. The EPA has some sample curriculum that can be reviewed at the [EPA's website](#)
  - d. Install idling reduction technology on school buses. For more information, visit the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission ([DVRPC](#)) [website](#)
  - e. Assign oldest school buses to shortest bus routes; use newest buses for longest routes.
  - f. Implement training for all district school bus drivers on the importance of reducing bus idling.



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# Implementation of Anti Idling Action – School Level:

If an individual school is completing this action:

1. Identify and document the idling situation at the school:
  - ❖ Discreet monitoring of idling vehicles at the school to understand the extent of the problem and where to focus efforts.

More information conducting observations and a sample form can be found on the [EPA's website](#)



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# Implementation of Anti Idling Action – School Level (cont.):

If an ***individual school*** is completing this action (cont.):

2. Implement THREE or more of the following strategies:

a. Distribute educational materials to the school's community.

Clean Water Action has compiled materials including posters, brochures, and signs from various sources on [their website](#). All are free to download.

b. Post "No Idling" signs at drop-off and pick-up zones of the school.

Students can help develop slogans and make the signs, or download and print out signs from Clean Water Action or the EPA. "No Idling" and "Idle-Free Zone" signs can be ordered from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection at [Stop the Soot](#).

c. Collect No Idling pledge cards from drivers.

NJDEP has a sample [no idling pledge](#) for parents, bus companies, school districts, or citizens.



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## Implementation of Anti Idling Action – School Level (cont.):

If an individual school is completing this action (cont.):

2. Implement THREE or more of the following strategies (cont.):

d. Present anti-idling programming for the students at school.

The local police, Safe Routes to School Coordinator from the local Transportation Management Association (TMA), or your school nurse could be great resources helping with an assembly. The EPA also has some sample lessons.

e. Work with local police to develop and implement an enforcement plan.

Repeat offenders should be ticketed and fined. Tickets can be found on the NJDEP's website. For more on enforcement of New Jersey's idling requirements, click here.

f. Provide a detailed report on the results/findings of monitoring and evaluation efforts.



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# Documentation Submission Requirements - School District:

## 1. Description of Implementation:

- ❖ In the text box provided on the submission page for this action provide a short narrative (300 words or less) of what has been accomplished and the impact it has or will have on the district.

## 2. A copy of the school district Anti-Idling Resolution. Include the date it was passed by the Board of Education.



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# Documentation Submission Requirements-School District (cont.):

3. Documentation of TWO or more of the following initiatives have been implemented in the past two years:
  - a. Distribute educational materials to the entire school community.
  - b. Collaborate with local police to develop and implement an enforcement plan.
  - c. Incorporate anti-idling into the district's curriculum
  - d. Install idling reduction technology on school buses.
  - e. Assign oldest school buses to shortest bus routes; use newest buses for longest routes.
  - f. Implement training to all school bus drivers within the district on the importance of reducing idling.



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# Documentation Submission Requirements – School Level:

## 1. Description of Implementation:

- ❖ In the text box provided on the submission page for this action provide a short narrative (300 words or less) of what has been accomplished and the impact it has or will have on the district

## 2. A summary of the idling situation at the school.

- ❖ Include when and how the data was collected



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## Documentation Submission Requirements – School Level (Cont.)

3. Documentation related to the implementation of THREE or more of the following strategies, or other strategies developed by the school in the past two years:
  - a. Distribute educational materials to the entire school community.
  - b. Post "No-Idling" signs at drop-off and pick-up zones at the school.
  - c. Collect "No idling" pledge cards from drivers.
  - d. Present anti-idling programming for the students at the school.
  - e. Work with local police to develop and implement an enforcement plan.
  - f. Provide a detailed report on the results/findings of monitoring and evaluation efforts.

**Note\*\*Approved actions will be set to expire two years from the date the initiative was completed. To reapply for this action, updated documentation must be provided.**



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# Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement

## Spotlight:

### Milford Public School, Hunterdon County

Due to the high volume of cars, the idling issue became a problem and the school's science teacher decided to address it. The teacher instructed his seventh and eighth-grade students to monitor the idling vehicles at the school for ten days, during both drop-off and pick-up times. He also asked the students to participate in an anti-idling lesson, after which the students designed signs for the school discouraging idling. These signs were installed at the school in September of 2014.

### Tatem Elementary School Anti-Idling Blitz, Haddonfield

In an effort to encourage walking and reduce traffic congestion and idling around Tatem Elementary, the Safe Routes to School Team created door-hangs which identify satellite drop-off and pick-up areas, as well as show statistics which offer the health benefits of walking and reasons to turn off motor vehicle engines. The School Champion, along with members from the Haddonfield Green Team, local police, and Haddonfield High School's Environmental Club, collaborated to disseminate the door-hangs and educated parents about the importance of not idling vehicles around the school and the benefits of using satellite "kiss-and-ride" locations. The Anti-Idling Blitz took place on October 2nd, just in time for International Walk to School Day on October 3rd. The event was a success and over 300 door-hangs were given out to parents and guardians. Due to the ongoing promotion of the "kiss-and-ride" locations by the Safe Routes to School Team, more parents have been utilizing the facilities. The number of idling vehicles has decreased, AND the number of children that walk, at least part way, to school, has risen.

### Idle Free NJ at Switlik School, Jackson

NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF)'s Program Organizer helped implement NJEF's Idle Free New Jersey Campaign at Switlik Elementary School in Jackson, NJ. By working with students to educate them on air pollution caused by idling vehicles and the existing no-idling laws, the students created a PowerPoint presentation that was then presented to the Jackson Township Council. The students explained why cars, trucks and buses should not idle their engines for more than ten seconds, described how idling wastes gasoline, and expressed that they wanted their school district to comply with the three-minute idle rule. The students also explained that decreasing idling reduces emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles that contribute significantly to air pollution. This type of pollution can trigger asthma attacks and other ailments, which is a major public health concern in New Jersey, especially among the elderly and children. The Jackson Council is currently promoting NJEF's Idle Free New Jersey campaign by passing a no-idling resolution that encourages anyone using a gasoline- or diesel-powered motor vehicle to turn off the engine after ten seconds if they plan to remain at that location for more than thirty seconds. The Jackson Council also conducted an educational no-idling campaign. The students and teacher were awarded with certificates in recognition of their outstanding work on anti-idling.



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# Resources:

**Clean Water Action/Idle Free NJ:** lists the steps to passing a no-idling pledge at your school, including free downloadable materials and spotlights for schools.

<http://www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/clean-air-idle-free-new-jersey>

**NJDEP "Stop the Soot" Campaign:** started by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)'s Bureau of Mobile Sources to bring attention to the problem of poor air quality caused by the idling of motor vehicles (i.e., automobiles, trucks, buses, school buses, construction vehicles and equipment, etc.)

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/stopthesoot/index.htm>

**NJDEP Idling Violation Resource**

[http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/idling\\_fact\\_sheet\\_1.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/idling_fact_sheet_1.pdf)

**US EPA Region 8 Idle Free Schools Toolkit:** includes all of the information needed to run an idling reduction campaign at a school in order to reduce student exposure to toxic vehicle exhaust

<http://www2.epa.gov/region8/idle-free-schools>

**Earth Day Network with Clean Air Campaign, Inc. "No Idling Campaign Materials and Resources":** separate toolkits for School District administrators to implement a campaign at the district level and another toolkit for teachers or parents to implement a campaign at the school

<http://www.earthday.org/noidling>

**AirwatchNW Anti-Idling Programs:** offers ideas and tools for conducting an anti-idling program at schools.

<http://www.airwatchnw.org/anti-idling-programs/>

**Transportation Management Agencies (TMAs):** assistance with implementing an anti-idling campaign.

<http://www.saferoutesnj.org/about/regional-coordinator-tmas/>



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