



Six great reasons to make schools in Renfrew County Idle-free

1. Our air will stay cleaner. Driving a car is the single most polluting thing that most of us do (according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). Motor vehicles such as cars and buses, emit a dangerous mix of pollutants including carbon monoxide, benzene, dioxin, arsenic, lead and microscopic soot. Catalytic converters are designed to remove some of the pollutants from car exhaust, but they function less efficiently or not at all when the car is idling. Therefore, greater amounts of toxins are released during idling than when the car is moving. Idle-free zones would help to keep some of these pollutants out of our air.



2. The health of children will benefit. Pollutants in motor vehicle exhaust cause a host of human health problems from minor eye irritation, to respiratory problems such as chronic bronchitis and asthma, lung damage, impaired immune function and cancer. Health Canada estimates that more than 5000 Canadians die prematurely each year because of air pollution, and thousands more become unnecessarily ill. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution because they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per pound of body weight. They're also more likely to breathe through their mouths, which makes children particularly susceptible to soot and other small air particles. Reduced idling would help to reduce these adverse health effects.

3. Vehicles will last longer and require fewer repairs if they are idled less frequently. Many people believe that stopping and starting a car is "hard on it". Actually, the opposite is true. Idling is hard on a car's engine. An idling engine is not operating at its peak temperature, which means that fuel combustion is incomplete. This leaves fuel residues that can condense on cylinder walls, where they can contaminate oil and damage engine components. For example, fuel residues tend to deposit on spark plugs. As the amount of engine idling increases, the average spark plug temperature drops and spark plug fouling is accelerated. This, in turn, can increase fuel consumption by 4 to 5 percent. Excessive idling can also allow water to condense in the vehicle's exhaust, which can lead to corrosion and reduce the life of the exhaust system.



4. Money and fuel will be saved. According to Natural Resources Canada, Canadians waste millions of dollars on unnecessary idling each year. On average, Canadian drivers idle their vehicles for five to ten minutes every day. If each motorist in Renfrew County would avoid idling for five minutes each day, *more than two millions litres of fuel worth over a million dollars would be saved every year!*



5. Fewer greenhouse gases will be released, helping to slow the process of climate change. In Canada, the transportation sector is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Emissions from idling vehicles are unnecessary and can be easily prevented with the turn of a key. If each motorist in Renfrew County avoided idling for *just five minutes each day*, more than ten thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide would be kept out of the atmosphere each year. That's enough to fill close to two thousand gymnasiums!



6. Schools can lead the way to healthier practices that care for the health of people and the planet.

