



WINDING ROAD IDLE REDUCTION

Idling your vehicle—running your engine when you’re not driving it—truly gets you nowhere. Idling reduces your vehicle’s fuel economy, costs you money, and creates pollution. Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more emissions that contribute to smog and climate change than stopping and restarting your engine does. According to Argonne National Laboratory, every year in the United States idling wastes:



6 billion gallons of fuel



20 billion USD in fuel costs

Idle reduction technologies and practices can help lower fuel consumption and fuel costs, protect public health and the environment, and increase U.S. energy security. Reducing idle time can also help reduce engine wear and maintenance costs. In Vermont, idling for more than five minutes in any 60 minute period is illegal.



Heavy Duty Vehicles

Truck stop electrification and onboard equipment can help reduce idling at truck stops, roadsides, and delivery sites.

Truck Stop Electrification provides power from an external source for important systems such as air conditioning, heating, and appliances without needing to idle the engine during required stops at rest areas.

Auxiliary Power Units are portable units that are mounted to the vehicle, and provide power for climate control and electrical devices in trucks, locomotives, and marine vehicles without idling the primary vehicle engine.

Energy Recovery Systems use the vehicle’s heat-transfer system to keep the truck’s heater operating after the engine is turned off, using engine heat that would otherwise dissipate.

Automatic Engine Stop-Start Controls sense the temperature in the sleeper cabin and automatically turn the engine on if the sleeper is too hot or too cold.

Cab or Bunk Heaters supply warm air to the cab or bunk compartment using small diesel heaters. Heaters can be coupled with air conditioners if needed.

Idle Reduction Tools

The Clean Cities IdleBox toolkit includes resources such as print products, templates, presentations, and information resources that can assist in creating idle reduction projects for medium- and heavy-duty fleets. IdleBox can also be used to educate policymakers, fleet managers, drivers, and others about the benefits of idle reduction.



School Buses

School bus idling is particularly problematic because of the negative health impacts for children. School bus engines should be

turned off while the engine is not needed, such as at loading and unloading areas, and should only be turned back on when the bus is ready to depart. Idle reduction technologies for school buses that operate in cold climates include small on-board diesel cabin heaters and electrical block heaters, which can provide warming for the passenger compartment and engine.



Light & Medium Duty Vehicles

For light-and medium-duty vehicles, the primary idle reduction strategy is to turn the engine off when the vehicle is parked or stopped for long periods of time. Drivers can also reduce

petroleum consumption by avoiding the use of a remote vehicle starter and obeying no-idle laws. Fleets may implement policies to set minimum fuel-efficiency targets or require the use of idle reduction practices. In addition, fleet managers can train their drivers on the benefits of reduced idling and how to use idle reduction strategies. For vehicles that must stop often or for extended periods of time, such as cabs, limousines, and utility trucks, the idle reduction technologies below can be implemented: air heaters, coolant heaters, waste-recovery systems, auxiliary power systems, automatic power management systems, hybridization.

Idling Laws in Vermont

Vermont law 23 V.S.A. § 1110. Prohibited idling of motor vehicles limits idling of all motor vehicles while parked to five minutes in any 60 minute period. The City of Burlington has a no idling ordinance which restricts vehicle idling to three minutes.

For more information on idle reduction in Vermont visit:

<http://vtccc.w3.uvm.edu/idle-reduction/>

