



EARTH CARE @LEWINSVILLE

AVOID UNNECESSARY IDLING

Vehicle emissions release significant amounts of harmful substances into our air, including greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that contribute to climate change, and smog (ground-level ozone) which can damage lungs. Reducing passenger vehicle idling, estimated to waste about 3 billion gallons of fuel annually, is an immediate and easy thing we can do to lower emissions. Here are some strategies:

- Avoid lengthy idling when you first start your car. Technological advances since about 1990 have eliminated the need for this, though many people have retained the old habit. Experts recommend driving off gently after about 30 seconds as the best way to warm the engine and all other components, even on cold days.
- Avoid using a remote starter, which encourages unnecessary idling.
- Turn off the engine when stopped even for a short time except in traffic situations where it may be unsafe. Examples: waiting to pick up a passenger, stopping to chat with a friend or use your phone, waiting in line for access to a gas pump and waiting at railway crossings. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that idling longer than 10 seconds wastes more gas than restarting.
- Many newer vehicles have automatic stop-start technology to reduce engine idling time. Take advantage of this feature if you have it.
- Rather than idling to de-ice or defrost your windows, spray them with a solution of 1 part water to 3 parts rubbing alcohol to quickly melt the ice before starting your car. Keep a sock filled with kitty litter on your dashboard to absorb moisture and reduce fogging.
- Avoid using drive-throughs (e.g., banks, pharmacies, fast food outlets). Park and walk inside instead. If COVID-19 concerns discourage indoor visits, bypass busy times and shut off the engine during lengthy transactions.
- Obey signs in existing no-idle zones and encourage adoption of no-idle policies in places without controls where idling is common.
- When purchasing a vehicle, choose an electric or hybrid model.



For fuel economy information go to: <https://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

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