

# Anti-Idling Fact Sheet



## *Facts about vehicle idling. Did you know?*

- ◆ Each of us takes 20,000 breaths each day.
- ◆ The average American breathes 3,400 gallons of air a day.
- ◆ Children breathe 50% more air per pound than adults.
- ◆ Vehicle exhaust is the leading source of toxic air pollution in Washington State.
- ◆ Idling consumes ½ gallon to 1 gallon of fuel per hour and wastes more fuel than turning off, and on, your vehicle engine.
- ◆ Diesel exhaust contains microscopic soot, about 200 times smaller than the period at the end of this sentence.
- ◆ Diesel exhaust contains both carbon particulates and 40 chemicals that are classified as “hazardous air pollutants” under the Clean Air Act.
- ◆ Idling buses tend to accumulate diesel exhaust, which may be retained during the ride, depending upon bus ventilation rates.
- ◆ It is more efficient to turn off most warmed-up vehicles than to idle for more than 30 seconds.
- ◆ A single vehicle dropping off and picking up kids at one school puts three pounds of pollution into the air per month.
- ◆ Carbon monoxide reduces the ability of blood to bring oxygen to body cells and tissues.
- ◆ Asthma is reaching epidemic proportions in Washington. More than half a million Washington residents have been diagnosed with asthma, including one out of every 10 children in the state.



- ◆ Children’s asthma symptoms increase as a result of car exhaust.
- ◆ Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences.
- ◆ The risk of death is 17% larger in higher polluted areas.

*For more information on these and other statistics and sources, contact:  
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, 477-4727 or [www.spokanecleanair.org/no\\_idle\\_zone.asp](http://www.spokanecleanair.org/no_idle_zone.asp)*