

Do Windsor A Favour – Turn Off Your Engine

To combat problems like climate change and urban smog, we all need to use energy more wisely.

In the case of idling, the solution is literally in your hands – it's as easy as turning a key. By turning off your vehicle when you are parked, you can improve the air you breathe, save money, and stop harmful gases from entering the atmosphere.

Ready To Do Your Part?

Here's a five-step process that can help you reduce vehicle idling:

Step 1: Reduce warm-up idling. Start driving after no more than 30 seconds of idling, assuming your vehicle's windows are clear.

Step 2: If you are going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds (except in traffic), turn off your engine. Idling your vehicle for longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel than it would take to restart the vehicle.

Step 3: Avoid using a remote car starter. These devices encourage you to start your vehicle before you are ready to leave, which means wasteful idling.

Step 4: In temperatures below 0°C, use a block heater to warm the engine before you start your vehicle. This will improve fuel efficiency and reduce exhaust emissions.

Step 5: Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about the benefits of reduced idling. Encourage them to join you in saving money, protecting the environment, and contributing to a healthier community.



Vehicle Emissions and You

Sponsored by:



Citizens Environment Alliance

WECEC- Windsor Essex County Environment Committee

HRSDC Canada



For more information: visit

www.idlefreewindsor.org, call 973-1156, or e-mail liaison@citizensenvironmentalliance.org

Consider This...

In Windsor-Essex County (WEC), smog is causing thousands of emergency hospital visits, costing our health care system over 23 million dollars to treat unnecessary respiratory illness. What's worse is that 9% of all non-accidental deaths in WEC are due to smog. Long lines of idling traffic waiting at drive-thru lanes, border crossings and railway crossings, for example, only exacerbate Windsor's poor air quality and contribute to increased smog alert days.

In addition to smog, climate change threatens to disrupt our environment, possibly putting our forests and water supply at risk, while endangering certain plant and animal species. Acid rain is also damaging our water supply, plant life, buildings, park facilities and other structures.

Smog, climate change and acid rain all have one thing in common: they are caused in part by emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.

Fast Fact

DID YOU KNOW that if every driver of a light-duty vehicle in Windsor avoided idling for 5 minutes a day, the city could prevent 41.03 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each day?

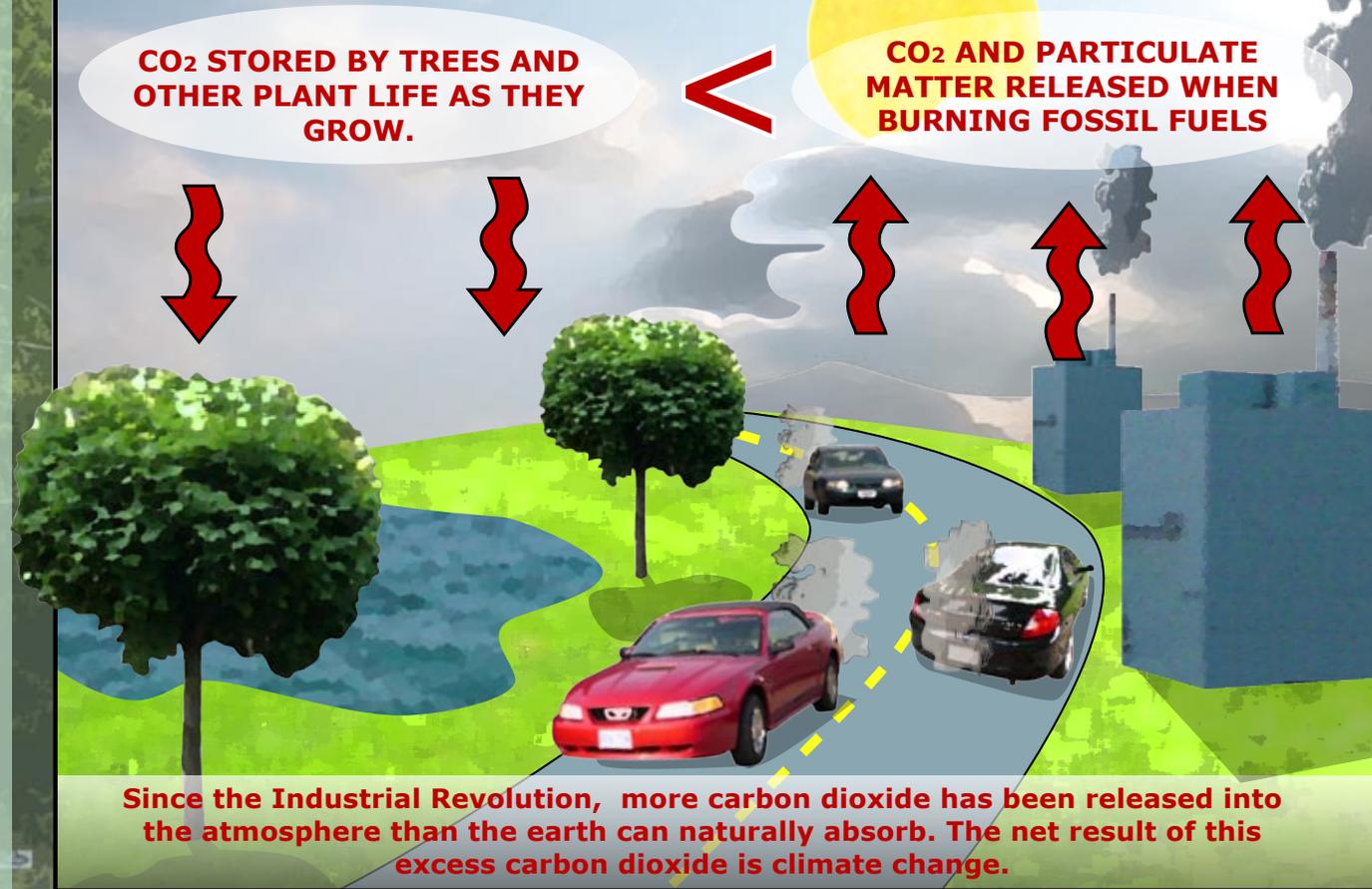
That's 14,976.30 tonnes per year! That is enough carbon dioxide to fill 2,546 gymnasiums.

By avoiding idling for 5 minutes a day, Windsor motorists could, each day, collectively avoid wasting 17,386.0 litres of fuel worth \$19,124.60. On an annual basis, this translates into savings of 6,345,889.9 litres worth \$6,980,478.90.

Source: <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/tools/co2-calculator/>

Climate Change

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a greenhouse gas. Like water vapour and methane, CO₂ helps the atmosphere retain heat. These greenhouse gases interact with other gases, the sun and all living matter to maintain an overall equilibrium to the earth's chemistry.



You and Your Vehicle: Making the Link

Vehicles are a big part of the problem. For every litre of gasoline used, the average car produces about 2.4 kilograms of carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. Other tailpipe emissions are also polluting the air we breathe.

That's why we're asking Windsor motorists to think about their driving habits, particularly about how much they idle their vehicles. When your engine runs while you're parked, it needlessly harms the environment. It also wastes fuel and money, diminishes your quality of life, and violates Windsor's anti-idling by-law (Bylaw# 233-2001, www.cityofwindsor.ca)