



# — 8 WAYS TO TAKE ACTION — ON IDLING!

In the United States, nearly 4 million gallons of fuel (enough to fill five Olympic-size swimming pools!) is wasted every day as a result of vehicle idling. All this unnecessary idling is bad for our health, bad for the environment, and most of all, bad for our wallets. We each waste two to four tanks of gasoline per year, just by idling.

Most people don't mean to be so wasteful — they just don't really even think about it. They may be following the outdated notion that restarting your car wastes more gas than letting it run. Once you point out the facts to someone, they're usually more than willing to change their behavior. With that in mind, we've put together some steps you can take to raise awareness about this important issue. Help us make turning off your engine rather than idling as commonplace as wearing your seat belt!

## 1. TAKE THE "I TURN IT OFF" PLEDGE

***"I pledge to idle for no longer than 10 seconds when I'm not in traffic."***

Visit [iturnitoff.com](http://iturnitoff.com) to join the growing number of individuals and organizations committed to "Turning It Off." Turning off your engine when idling for more than 10 seconds when not in traffic is the easiest way for you to get involved and make a difference. Once you get into the habit it will become second nature. You'll save gas and cash, you'll lengthen the life of your engine, and you'll contribute to a cleaner, healthier planet.

## 2. LEARN MORE

Extensive information about anti-idling is available online. Visit our I Turn It Off Campaign website to get started. Read inspiring stories on our blog about what others are doing to tackle unnecessary idling in their communities. [sustainableamerica.org/blog](http://sustainableamerica.org/blog)

## 3. SPREAD THE WORD

Share what you've learned about vehicle idling by asking your friends, family, classmates and colleagues to take the pledge and join you in making a difference. Consider writing an editorial in your local

newspaper. Share the facts on social media with these Facebook and Twitter updates:

- Did you know that 10 seconds of #idling wastes more fuel than restarting your engine? Learn more and take the pledge to stop idling at [iturnitoff.com](http://iturnitoff.com)
- Find out how much money you can save by cutting down on #idling at [iturnitoff.com](http://iturnitoff.com)

## 4. START A CAMPAIGN IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Launch an I Turn It Off anti-idling campaign in your city or town or at your school, work, or place of worship. Encourage others to get on board for a safer and healthier community for all! Download how-to guides, posters, postcards and more at: [iturnitoff.com](http://iturnitoff.com). (Note: Some state environmental protection agencies offer free or low-cost anti-idling signs.)

## 5. ORGANIZE A SCREENING OF “IDLE THREAT: MAN ON EMISSIONS”

*Idle Threat: Man on Emissions* is the story of George Pakenham, a New Yorker who got fed up with people idling in his neighborhood. He took action by asking them to stop and advocating for anti-idling enforcement in New York. Watching this entertaining film is a powerful learning experience and can be a great springboard for collective discussion and action. The film can be purchased for community screenings of varying sizes through Specialty Studios ([sustainableamerica.org/idlethreat](http://sustainableamerica.org/idlethreat)).

## 6. BECOME AN IDLE ACTIVIST!

Once you become aware of unnecessary idling you will undoubtedly start to see idlers everywhere. If you are up to the task, why not knock on a few windows and ask: “Excuse me for bothering you...but would you mind turning off your engine?” Being armed with

information and facts will definitely help your cause. Consider carrying Sustainable America’s pocket sized “courtesy ticket” with idling facts and figures available for download at: [iturnitoff.com](http://iturnitoff.com) or create a business card with your local idling law.

## 7. ENGAGE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Begin by researching anti-idling laws, ordinances and policies in your town, city and/or state. If these are in place, are they being enforced? [Find a list here: [atri-online.org/2017/02/01/idling-regulations-compendium](http://atri-online.org/2017/02/01/idling-regulations-compendium)] Are there opportunities that you see for improvement? Develop a set of recommendations and identify the appropriate person/s to meet with in your community. Identify potential allies such as like-minded local environmental or health organizations.

## 8. TELL YOUR LEGISLATORS THAT IDLING IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE

At least 29 states and the District of Columbia have anti-idling laws in place. While this is a great start, all states should have laws against this harmful practice. A national law would likely be best, as inconsistency in rules makes compliance difficult for drivers, particularly long-distance drivers like truckers. Also, in recent years several car manufacturers have started offering automatic start-stop anti-idling technology in their vehicles as an add-on. Like higher MPG legislation, this technology could be mandated, which would significantly cut down on unnecessary idling times.

**BONUS!** If you’re passionate about this issue, please donate to Sustainable America to help us raise even more awareness about vehicle idling. You can make a secure, tax-deductible donation online at [www.sustainableamerica.org/donate](http://www.sustainableamerica.org/donate).

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**IDLETHREAT**