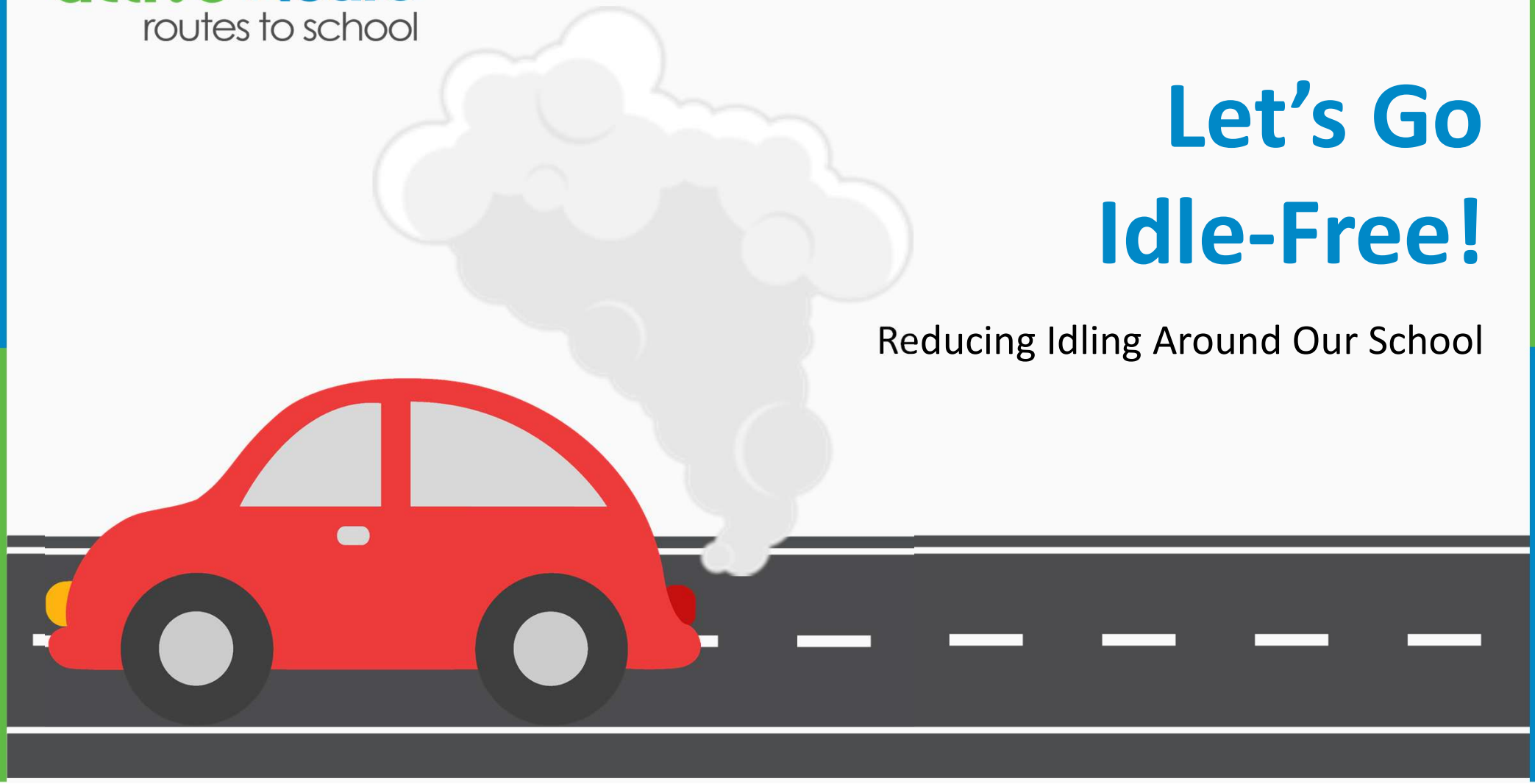
active & safe routes to school

Let's Go Idle-Free!

Reducing Idling Around Our School

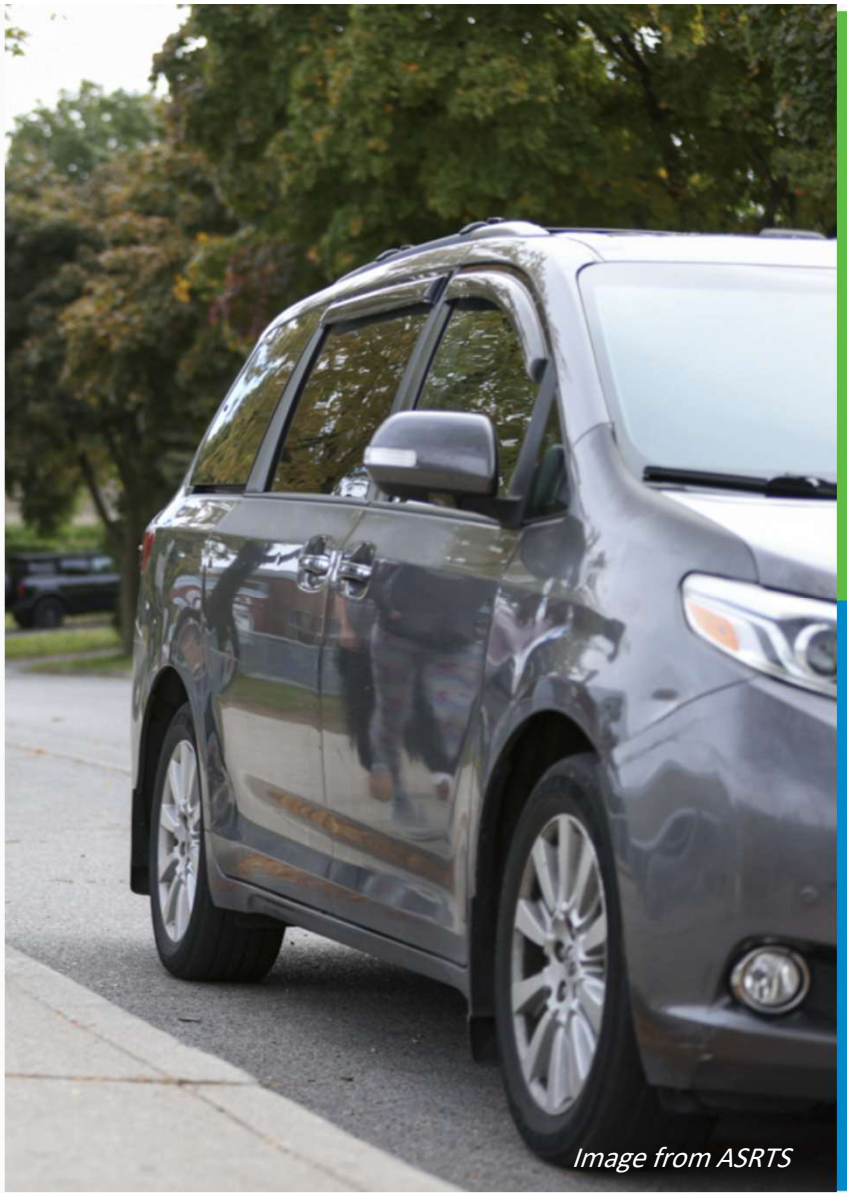


What is Idling?

Idling happens when a vehicle's engine is running, but the car isn't moving, such as while:

- Waiting in the school pickup line
- Stopping for a few minutes with the engine still on

If you're stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn your engine off!



Why Stop Idling?

1. Health

Emissions can hurt young lungs

2. Environment

Less pollution and better air quality.

3. Safety

Fewer cars = safer streets.

4. Money

Idling wastes fuel.

Knowledge Check #1: Idling

What does idling mean?

A) When a car is parked and the engine is turned off
B) When a car's engine is running, but the car isn't moving
C) When a car is driving very fast
D) When a car is stopped at a red light with the engine off

Knowledge Check #1: Idling

What does idling mean?

A) When a car is parked and the engine is turned off

B) When a car's engine is running, but the car isn't moving ✅

C) When a car is driving very fast

D) When a car is stopped at a red light with the engine off

LD1

Slide 5

LD1 Perhaps you could highlight the correct option to make it stand out more
Laura Dueck, 2025-11-13T19:39:08.371

What is an Idle-Free School?

An **idle-free school** is a place where parents, staff, and bus drivers work together to **reduce unnecessary idling** on school property.

Together, we can build **healthier, cleaner school environments** for everyone.

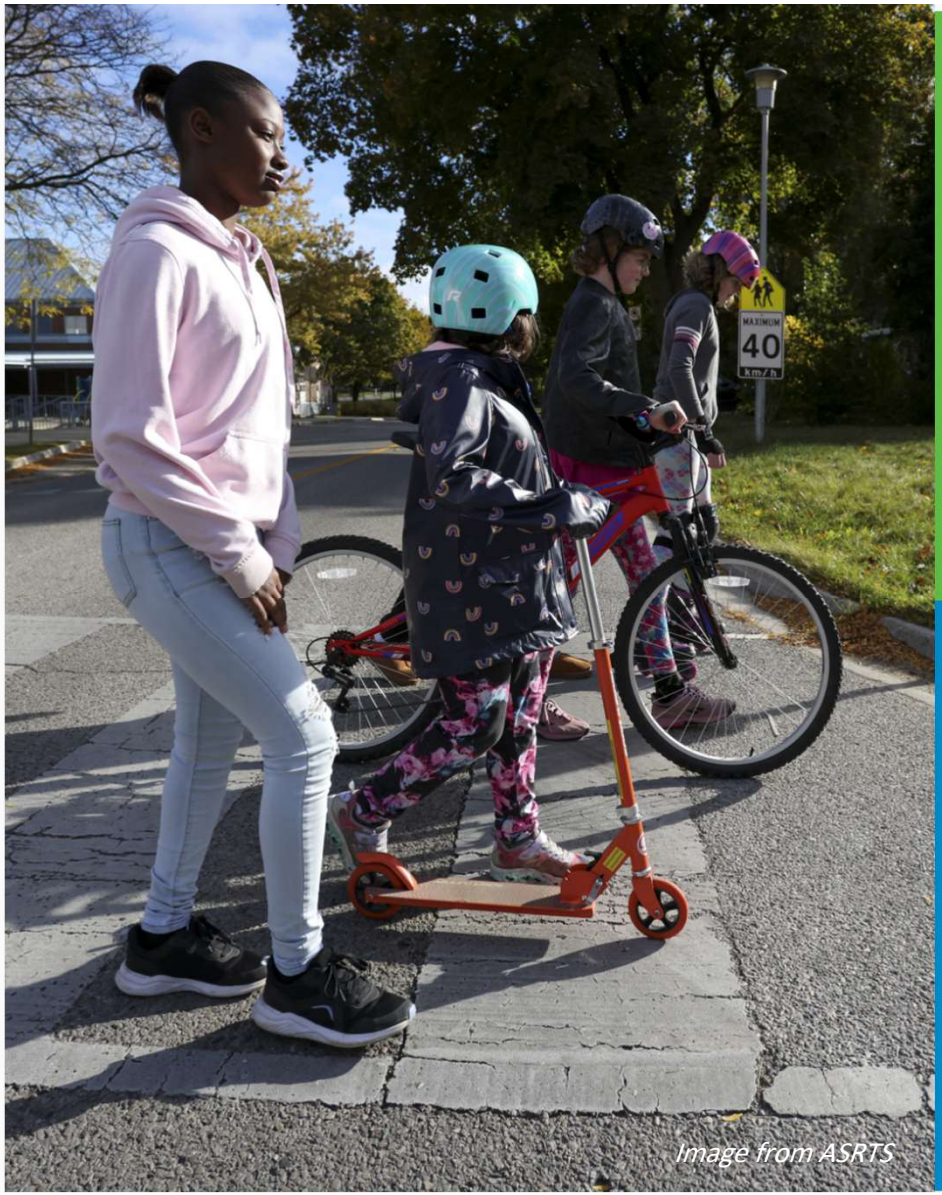


Image from ASRTS

Core Messages

TURN

The key and turn your car off.

MOVE

Away from the curb.

WALK

Part of the way

Activity: Let's Measure Idling!

As adapted from the ASRTS Anti-Idling Toolkit

Goal: Track how many cars idle at the kiss and ride drop-off, how long they idle, and calculate fuel wasted and CO_2 emitted.

Materials

For this activity you will need:

- Kiss & Ride idling data worksheet
- Pencil or pen
- Clipboards
- Stopwatch
- Calculator

Image from Canva

Image from Canva

Step 1: Observe and Record

- Choose a 10-minute observation period
- Count:
  → Number of cars and buses idling
  → How long each one idles

Tip: Work in pairs – one records, one observes

Step 2: Conversion Factors

Use the following conversion factors to calculate the amount of fuel wasted and CO_2 emitted by each vehicle

Vehicle Type	Fuel Wasted /10 min	Fuel Wasted /min	CO_2 Emitted /10 min	CO_2 /min
Car	0.1 L	0.01L	0.24 kg	0.02 kg
Bus	0.67 L	0.067L	1.9 kg	0.19 kg

Example LD1

Vehicle Type	Fuel Wasted /10 min	Fuel Wasted /min	CO2 Emitted /10 min	CO2 /min
Car	0.1 L	0.01L	0.24 kg	0.02 kg
Bus	0.67 L	0.067L	1.9 kg	0.19 kg

A car idles for 3 minutes → 0.01 x 3 = 0.03 L of fuel wasted, 0.02 x 3 = 0.06 kg CO_2 emitted

A bus idles for 7 minutes → 0.47 L fuel wasted, 1.33 kg CO_2 emitted

Slide 12

LD1 I think that the ‘example’ should be different then the knowledge check 2 question. Can you change the numbers for one of them?
Laura Dueck, 2025-11-13T19:44:07.342

Knowledge Check #2: Calculations

Vehicle Type	Fuel Wasted /10 min	Fuel Wasted /min	CO2 Emitted /10 min	CO2 /min
Car	0.1 L	0.01L	0.24 kg	0.02 kg
Bus	0.67 L	0.067L	1.9 kg	0.19 kg

If two vehicles, a car and a bus, both idle for 5 minutes, how much CO_2 is emitted?

A) 1.07 kg
B) 0.24 kg
C) 2.14 kg
D) 0.107 kg

Knowledge Check #2: Calculations

If two vehicles, a car and a bus, both idle for 5 minutes, how much CO_2 is emitted?

A) 1.07 kg ✅
B) 0.24 kg
C) 2.14 kg
D) 0.107 kg

Car: 0.24 kg/2 = 0.12 kg
Bus: 1.9 kg/2 = 0.95 kg

Total = 0.12 kg + 0.95 kg = 1.07 kg CO_2 emitted

1.07 kg would weigh about as much as a **pineapple** – but it would fill a HUGE amount of space because it's a gas!

Step 3: Summarize Your Data

Make note of:

- Total vehicles observed
- Total fuel wasted
- Total CO_2 emitted

Example:

"During a 10-minute Kiss & Ride observation, 12 cars idled for an average of 5 minutes. That's 0.6 L of fuel wasted and 1.44 kg of CO_2 released — just in 10 minutes!"

Step 4: Think-Pair-Share

Think: On your own think about why it's important to turn off your engine instead of idling when you're parked or waiting.

Pair: Discuss with a partner what drivers could do *instead* of idling and how that small action could make a difference.

Share: After discussing with your partner, share one reason with the class why turning off the engine helps keep our air cleaner and our community healthier.

Knowledge Check #4: Idling Prevention

Which of the following are good ways to avoid idling?

A) Remind drivers to turn off their engine when waiting to pick someone up
B) Park and walk the last 5-10 minutes to school
C) Turn off the car when stopped
E) All of the above

Knowledge Check #4: Idling Prevention

Which of the following are good ways to avoid idling?

A) Remind drivers to turn off their engine when waiting to pick someone up
B) Park and walk the last 5-10 minutes to school
C) Turn off the car when stopped
E) **All of the above** ✅

Thank You!

Have any Questions?

Email: info@activesaferoutes.ca.
Visit: http://activesaferoutes.ca/

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by Slidesgo, and includes icons & images by Canva

Adapted from Clean Air Partnership. (2009). *Idle-Free: Campaign kit*. Clean Air Partnership. Idle-Free Campaign Kit