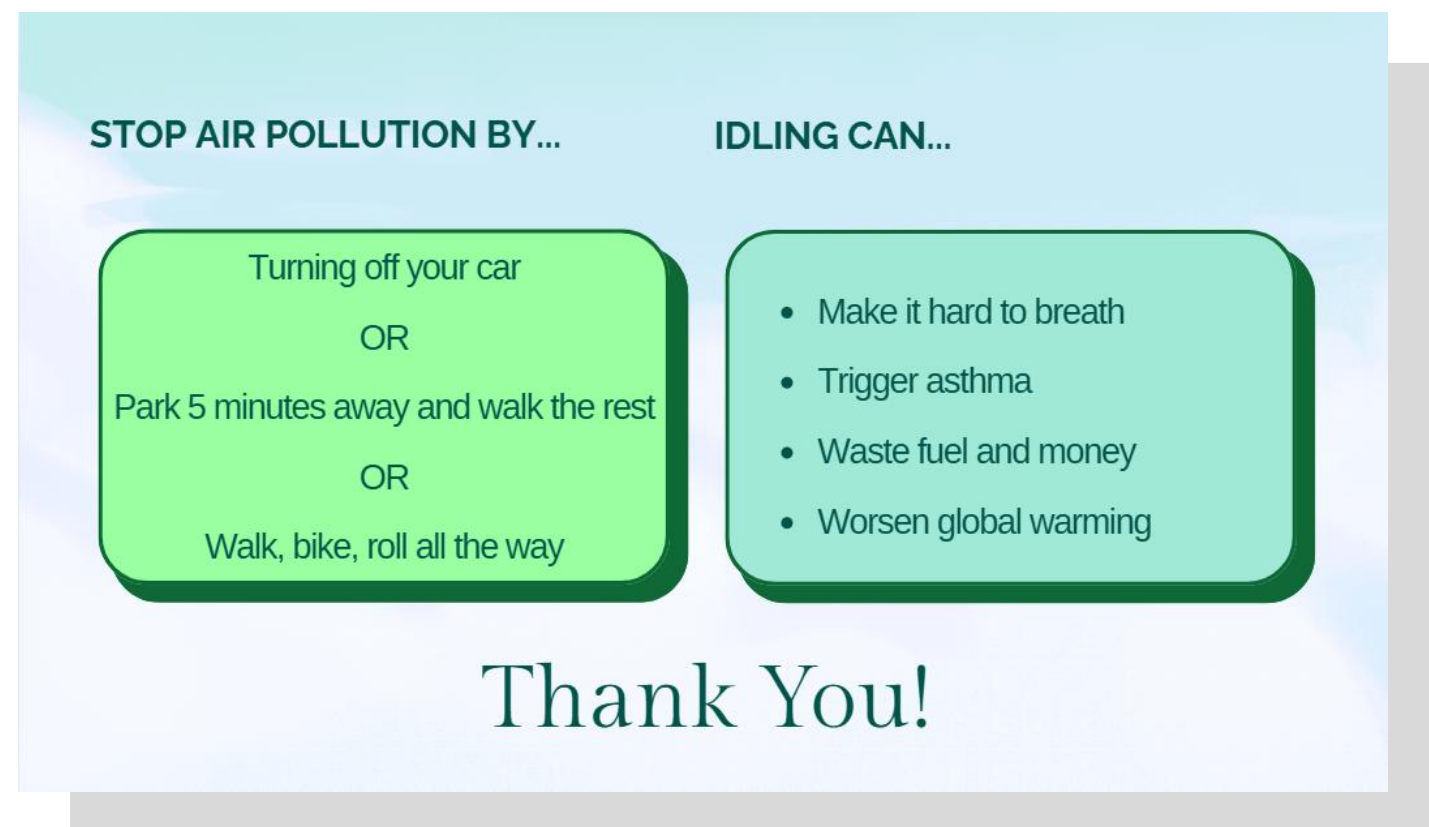




# Idle-Free Encouragement Cards Activity

Reducing vehicle idling for cleaner air  
around our school.



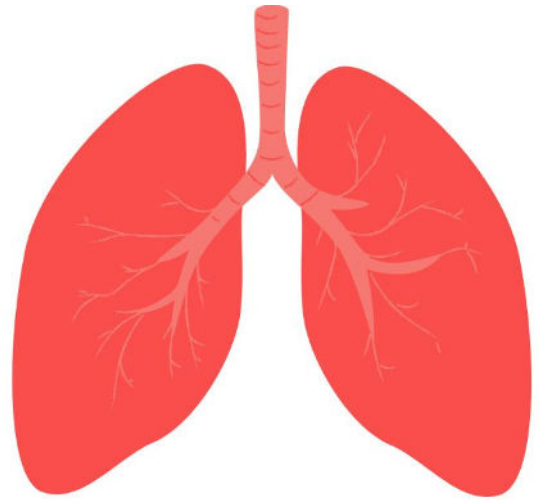
# What is Idling?

- Idling is when a vehicle's engine runs while it is not moving.
- Many parents and guardians idle while waiting for students after school.
- Even a few minutes of idling adds up to a lot of wasted fuel and pollution.



# Why is idling a problem?

## 1. Health



Releases harmful pollutants that can trigger asthma and breathing problems.

## 2. Wasteful

Wastes money and fuel.



## 3. Environment

Contributes to climate change.



## 4. School Community

Makes the air around school less healthy for students, teachers, and staff.



# Knowledge Check #1:

**What does “idling” mean?**

- A) Driving at high speed.
- B) Leaving your car running while stopped.
- C) Turning your car off.
- D) Parking your car.



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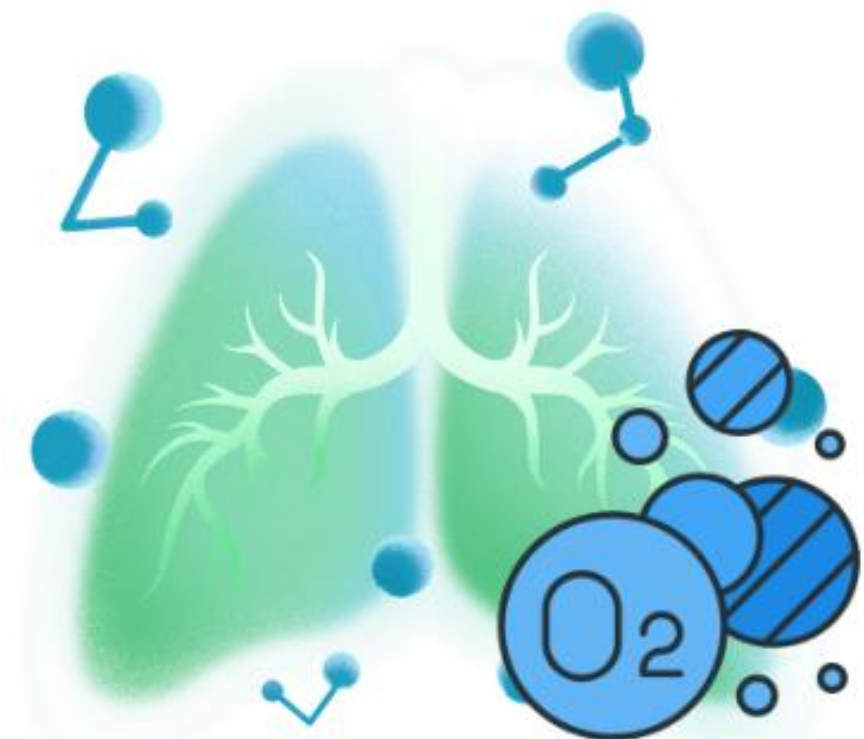
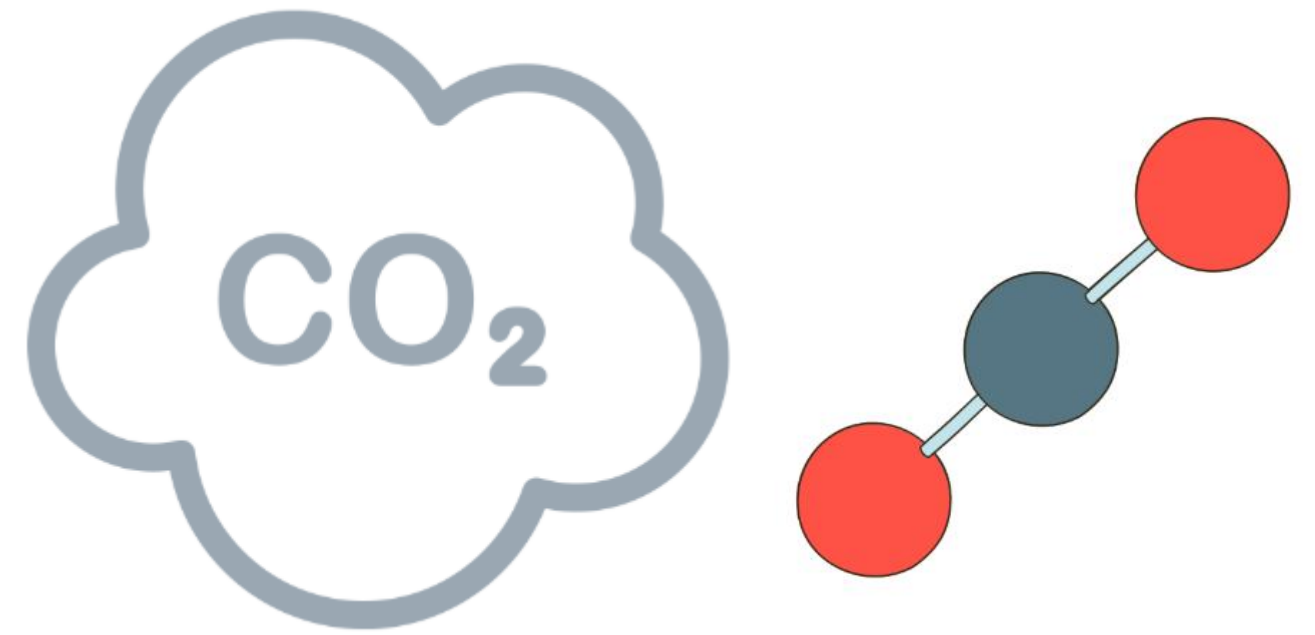
**Did you know...**

Just 10 minutes of idling = **1500** balloons  
of dirty air!



# How does idling affect the environment?

- Idling vehicles release carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ), a greenhouse gas. Too much carbon dioxide means less oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ) for us to breath.
- Green house gasses trap heat in Earth's atmosphere. This adds to air pollution and climate change.
- Turning off your engine reduces greenhouse gas emissions immediately.



# Knowledge Check #2:

**Who do you think breaths faster and takes in more pollution?**

- A) Children
- B) Adults
- C) Teachers
- D) Cars



# Knowledge Check #2:

**Who do you think breaths faster and takes in more pollution?**

- A) Children**
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- D) Cars

That's why clean air around schools is so important!



# What are the idle-free cards?

- Small friendly reminder cards for drivers.
- Helps spread awareness about idling and promote a healthier school environment.
- Encourages people to:

**1. Turn the car off.**



**2. Park 5 minutes away  
and walk the rest.**



**3. Walk, bike, or roll  
all the way.**





# How the activity works:

- Students go outside between 3:00pm and 3:30pm with an adult supervisor.
- Work in pairs or small groups.
- Observe cars that are idling near the school.
- Politely hand out cards to drivers who are idling.

# Safety First!



- ✓ Stay on the sidewalk or in a clearly marked safe area.
- ✓ Work in pairs or small groups and with an adult/supervisor nearby.
- ✓ Only approach cars that are fully stopped on the curb closest to the school.
- ✓ Keep a friendly and positive attitude.
- ✓ Step back immediately if a car starts to move or if asked to do so.



# What NOT to do:

- ✗ Do NOT step onto the road or between cars.
- ✗ Do NOT cross the road.
- ✗ Do NOT argue with drivers.
- ✗ Do NOT touch a car without permission.
- ✗ Do NOT hand cards to moving vehicles.
- ✗ Do NOT block traffic or stand too close to the curb.



# What to say to drivers:



(United States Environmental Protection Agency)

**If driver is idling:**

“Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m helping our school go idle-free. Would you like to hear about the benefits of turning off your car engine?”

**If driver is NOT idling:**

“Thank you for turning off your engine while waiting! You’re helping keep our air clean.”



# Fun Fact Break!

If every car in Canada idled just 5 minutes less per day, it would save **1.6 million** liters of fuel.

That's enough to fill **32,000** bathtubs!



# Practice Before Presenting

Let's put what you learned into practice:

1. Find one or two classmates.
2. Assign one person the role of being the idling driver and the others as the students giving out the cards.
3. Practice what you will say to drivers.
4. Practice being safe.
5. Switch roles.

# Thank You!

Have any Questions?

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Visit: <http://activesaferoutes.ca/>

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United States Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). *Idle-Free Schools Presentation (PDF)*. EPA.

<https://www.epa.gov/schools/idle-free-schools-toolkit-healthy-school-environment>

