

To Idle or Not to Idle, That is the Question



The Environmental Commission would like to highlight different areas that you can focus on and point out ways you can help improve your environment. Today's topic deals with you and your automobile.

According to the EPA, driving a car is the single most polluting thing most of us do and in the State of New Jersey it is one of the largest source of pollutants. These particles and gases are a cause of asthma and allergies, especially among children, and increase the risk of cancer, heart and lung diseases.

Living in Watchung makes the automobile a necessity, but there are many things you can do to lessen your car's impact on the air that we breathe. Read the list below and see if some changes in your behavior can reduce the amount of diesel soot and vehicle exhaust you contribute.

- Idling your car for 10 seconds uses more fuel than turning the car off and on.
- Cars warm up faster when moving.
- It does not harm your car to turn it off and on.
- When idling, you get zero miles per gallon.
- Excessive idling can damage your car's engine.
- If you are in a waiting at a drive- thru you will use less fuel if you put the car in neutral.
- If the weather is nice and the establishment is open, park and go inside to transact your business. Burn calories not fuel.
- Idling for 20 minutes generated the same amount of hazardous emissions as driving nearly 320 miles.
- Idling more than 3 minutes is against the law in New Jersey.