


Idling



Based on extrapolations from existing data, La Crosse vehicles may contribute over **9 tons** of carbon dioxide per day and over **3,400 tons per year** on idling alone.



The average car idles for 16 minutes per day

4.2 minutes for warming the vehicle

3.7 minutes waiting to pick someone up


8.1 minutes in traffic

} This is something we  
can fix

← This is unavoidable

According to the Census, La Crosse has 21,186 households and an average of two vehicles per household.

So, there are around 42,372 vehicles in La Crosse.



If each car idles for the avoidable amount of 8.1 minutes per day,  
that results in

351,313.2 minutes of idling each day

**That is over 8 months of idling in a single day.**

Using a conservative estimate that each car is a compact sedan that uses .16 gallons of gas per hour of idling, La Crosse residents are wasting

936.8 gallons of gas each day, and 341,944.7 gallons every year

At \$3 per gallon, that is \$28,104 per day and \$1,025,834 per year





For each gallon of gas burned, 20 pounds of carbon dioxide is emitted.

18,736 pounds each day

6,838,640 pounds every year...

3419.32 tons





## Everyday in La Crosse...

8  
months  
of time  
spent  
idling

\$28,104  
wasted

18,736  
pounds  
of  
carbon  
dioxide

The background is a solid light green color. On the left side, there are several stylized green shapes: a large circle, a smaller circle, and three leaves of different sizes and shades of green. The text "Solutions and Goals" is written in white, sans-serif font on the right side of the image.

# Solutions and Goals



# Municipal vehicle idling limits

- Training for employees during orientation
- Yearly reminders via meeting or email
- Exemptions when necessary
  - Listed fully in the memo



## Education of community

- Partner with schools, universities, and major employers
- Utilize resources from other municipalities and the EPA



## Turn Off that Engine, Please

Each day Americans waste approximately 3.8 million gallons of gasoline by voluntarily idling their cars. For every gallon of gasoline used, a vehicle emits an average of 20 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>. That translates to 13 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> produced annually from voluntary idling!<sup>(a)</sup> The resulting pollutants linger in the environment and cause long-term health impairment and environmental damage. Studies have shown that idling for over **10 seconds** uses more gasoline and produces more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than restarting your engine.

What can you do? Participate. If it looks like you'll be waiting for more than **10 seconds**, turn off your engine, and restart it when you're ready to move . . . and encourage others to do the same.

Why should you participate? People participate for varying reasons: they don't want to be wasteful; they want to minimize their environmental impact; they want better gas mileage; they're concerned about air quality.

No matter how efficient your car, voluntary idling wastes fuel, costs you money and pollutes the air. So, please, join in the campaign to reduce voluntary idling by turning off your engine if you'll be waiting for longer than **10 seconds**.

Fitchburg's Idling Reduction Campaign will result in improved air quality, reduced fuel costs and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Participating area businesses are posting signs, designed by 5th graders at Leopold Elementary School, reminding customers to turn off their engine while waiting.

(a) "Anti-Idling Primer; Every Second Counts" by Hal Hinkle, Patricia Deacon & "Kasia Duda Hinkle Charitable Foundation



A handout Fitchburg distributes to drivers at events, and a sign they have posted on properties where idling is common



# Schools

- School bus idling
  - School policy (Milwaukee has specifics in their contract with the bus service)
  - Ordinance-mandated policy (Indiana requires each school to have a plan, or banning idling of buses in school zones altogether)



## Schools (cont.)

- Personal vehicle pick-ups and drop-offs
  - Encourage alternate modes of transportation
  - Send letter to guardians informing them of the dangers of idling (example from Oshkosh)
  - Ordinance-mandated idling restrictions in school zone



# EPA resources

- [School bus idle reduction](#)
- [Idle-Free Schools Toolkit](#)



## Community-wide ordinance

- With the success of education campaign could come a formal ordinance
- It could only apply to certain areas, certain types of vehicles, and have other exemptions where necessary

## 12.1291 - MOTOR VEHICLE IDLING.



- (1) Violation. No person shall cause or permit the engine of any motor vehicle to operate in idle for longer than five (5) consecutive minutes while stopping, standing, or parking on any highway.
- (2) Liability.
  - (a) The owner of any motor vehicle involved in a violation of Subsection (1) of this Section shall be solely liable for the violation, except as provided in Subdivision (2)(c) of this Section.
  - (b) It shall be no defense to a violation of Subsection (1) of this Section that the registered owner was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation.
  - (c) The driver of any City motor vehicle involved in violation of Subsection (1) of this Section shall be solely liable for the violation.
- (3) Exceptions. The following periods of idling by any motor vehicle shall be exempted from sub. (1) of this Section:
  - (a) Idling as needed when the ambient temperature is below twenty degrees Fahrenheit (20°F) or above ninety degrees Fahrenheit (90°F);
  - (b) Idling as needed to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or other equipment, to prevent a health or safety emergency, including for the purpose of providing shelter;
  - (c) Idling as needed for testing, servicing, repairing, or diagnostic purposes;
  - (d) Idling as needed to operate auxiliary equipment for which the motor vehicle was designed, other than transporting goods, including, but not limited to, operating a transportation refrigeration unit, lift, crane, pump, drill, hoist, or ready mixed concrete mixer; and
  - (e) Idling as needed for traffic conditions over which the driver has no control, including, but not limited to, traffic congestion, an official traffic control device or signal, a railroad crossing while a train is passing or the crossbars are down, traffic controls in a construction zone, or at the direction of a law enforcement official.
- (4) Enforcement. Sub. (1) of this Section shall be enforced by any police officer or parking enforcement officer.

(Cr. by ORD- [17-00091](#), 9-13-17)



# Madison's idling ordinance



# Goals

- Reduce municipal vehicle idling by 50% by 2025
- Partner with 10 major employers on idling reduction programs by 2030