



Go Idle Free in 2023!
Idling a Car is Unhealthy, Expensive and Illegal

Take the Pledge Today

April 12, 2023 (Wellesley, MA) -- Wellesley's [Climate Action Committee](#), [Natural Resources Commission](#) and [Police Department](#) as well as [Wellesley Green Schools](#) and [Sustainable Wellesley](#) invite the community to take the [pledge](#) and **Go Idle Free in 2023**.

Starting on Tuesday, April 25, volunteers will ask drivers at Wellesley Public Schools to take the [pledge](#) to turn off their engines while in school car lines as idling is unhealthy, expensive and illegal.

Unhealthy

Did you know that motor vehicle exhaust accounts for more than [40% of Wellesley's greenhouse gas emissions](#) and that each year, the US produces over [30 million tons of CO2 by idling](#)? The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) reports that air toxins from idling are known to cause cancer, respiratory effects like asthma and other serious health effects. Idling is especially dangerous around schools because children are highly susceptible to air pollution from car exhaust. Children's developing lungs have a smaller surface area and a higher inhalation rate (can be over 3x that of adults), which means greater exposure and potentially permanent damage to lung function.

Expensive

Idling is also expensive. Each year in the United States, personal-vehicle idling [wastes about 3 billion gallons of fuel](#). With higher gas prices, this means idling is wasting money.

Illegal

Idling can also cost you money in fines. In Wellesley, there is a \$15 fine for idling which mirrors the state's anti-idling violation of \$100.

Please reconsider habits and try something new. Take the [pledge](#) and **Go Idle Free in 2023!**

