

What is *Clean Air Zone Idaho*?

The *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program began in 2004 with an initiative to reduce children's exposure to school bus diesel exhaust by discouraging idling of buses and encouraging use of alternative fuels in school buses. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) asked schools to adopt no-idle zones outside their schools and to use cleaner biodiesel fuel in their buses when possible.*

In 2006, DEQ expanded the program into Idaho communities. The expanded program seeks to reduce emissions by discouraging idling by *all* types of vehicles at a wide range of public facilities where idling vehicles are common, such as airports, libraries, parks, sports areas, universities, hospitals, and child care facilities. Businesses with delivery areas, drop-off zones, and drive-up windows are encouraged to participate as well.

The goals of *Clean Air Zone Idaho* are to:

- Provide a healthier environment for Idaho's citizens by reducing exposure to the harmful effects of breathing vehicle exhaust.
- Reduce vehicle emissions.
- Encourage use of cleaner alternative fuels.

Save gas and money, too! According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is more gas-efficient to turn the engine off and restart if idling is expected to last more than 10 seconds.

* Is your school a participant? Log on to DEQ's Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/clean-air-zone-schools to find out.

For More Information

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Web Resources

Vehicle Emissions and Air Quality

www.deq.idaho.gov/vehicle-emissions

Clean Air Zone Idaho for Local Governments

www.deq.idaho.gov/clean-air-zone-communities

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Asthma Prevention and Control Program

www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/portal/alias__Rainbow/lang__en-US/tabID__3395/DesktopDefault.aspx

Clean School Bus USA Program

www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/index.htm



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How your community
can help
improve air quality
and
protect public health
by reducing
vehicle emissions



Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov

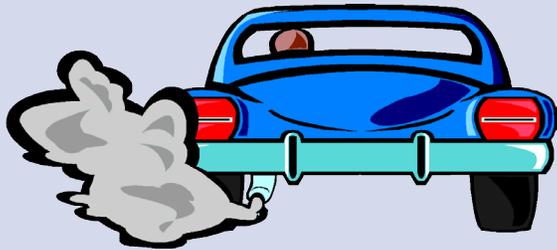


Why are we concerned about vehicle emissions?

Vehicles emit many pollutants into the air, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and volatile organic compounds. These pollutants then combine to form secondary pollutants such as fine particulate matter and ozone.

Emissions from an individual car are generally low relative to the smokestack image many people associate with air pollution. Emissions from many cars on the road or idling in a waiting area add up, however, and can have a serious impact on air quality.

In some areas of Idaho, vehicle emissions are the number one cause of air pollution.



Driving a private car is probably a typical citizen's most "polluting" daily activity.

What are the health impacts of vehicle exhaust?

The most obvious health impact of vehicle emissions is on the respiratory system.

Breathing elevated levels of air pollutants can adversely affect human health, especially in sensitive populations such as children, the elderly, and people with certain health conditions such as asthma.

Other potential health problems include birth defects, nerve damage, reduced immunity, and an increased risk of developing cancer.

What can communities do to minimize the health impacts of vehicle exhaust? Join the *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program!

- Adopt a **no-idling policy** at public facilities. DEQ can provide you with suggested text.
- Establish **Clean Air Zones** around public facilities.
- Post **"Turn off your engine" signs** in Clean Air Zones to remind drivers not to idle vehicles. DEQ can provide you with bright outdoor metal signs that will capture drivers' attention.
- Spread the word. **Publicize the program** at community events.
- Support the use of **alternative fuels**, such as biodiesel and ethanol blends that burn cleaner and produce lower emissions, and the use of **hybrid vehicles** that can run part of the time on electricity.
- Consider purchasing **alternative-fueled and hybrid vehicles** for your fleet.
- Work with area businesses to **encourage creating no-idling zones** at delivery areas, drop-off zones, and drive-up windows with typical wait-times of over 10 seconds. Businesses can obtain Clean Air Zone window stickers from DEQ.



How to Join

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