1. Health effects of air pollution

'Emissions from motor vehicles … have a severe impact on air quality and public health.'[1] Air pollution from vehicles has many health effects including 'cardio-vascular disease, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and diabetes,'[2] respiratory problems, allergic illnesses, pregnancy and birth problems, influence on male fertility, risk of death, cardiopulmonary problems, increased risk of heart attack, and changes in the autonomic nervous system.[3] 'Idling vehicles suffer from less ventilation inside the vehicle leading to a toxic buildup of pollutants.'[4] Idling vehicles can create far more pollution than if they were moving.[5] Motorbikes and scooters often emit far more pollution than cars.[6] Children are particularly susceptible to the effects of pollution.[7] Many parents and school bus drivers idle their engines when they drop off and pick up their children from school creating pollution hot spots.[8]

Conclusion: Idling is a serious problem. It is especially important to stop idling around schools.

2. Acceleration of global warming

'Idling for over 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more CO2 emissions than restarting your engine.'[9] 'Every gallon of gas burned emits nearly 25 pounds of carbon dioxide and other global-warming gases into the atmosphere.'[10] 'A vehicle idling for five minutes produces more than a quarter kilogram (271.4 grams) of the greenhouse gases that are destabilizing our planet's climate patterns.'[11]

3. Noise pollution

Idling is noisy. Research indicates that traffic noise 'harms the health and well-being of children,'[12] impacts work quality and bio-chemistry, and increases tension, blood pressure and pulse frequency.[13]

4. Depletion of natural resources

'An idling car uses between 1/5 to 7/10 of a gallon of fuel an hour. An idling diesel truck burns approximately one gallon of fuel an hour.'[5]

5. Savings loss

In America it is estimated that reducing idling would generally save between US$70-650 (NT 1,824 - 19,761 as of January 2014) a year for one vehicle.[5] In the UK it is estimated that reduction of idling 'could save businesses as much as £3.3 billion per year in fuel' (NT 164.88 billion as of January 2014).[14] 'Letting an engine idle actually does more damage to the engine than starting and stopping. Running an engine at low speed (idling) causes twice the wear on internal parts compared to driving at regular speeds, which can increase maintenance costs and shorten the life of the engine.'[15]

Save the Earth. The key is in your hands.

Information sources

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